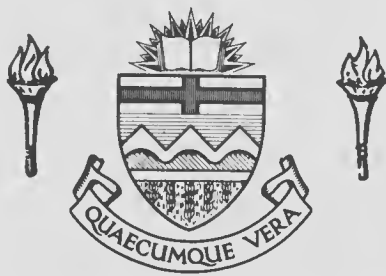


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FEB 13 '58

In This Issue . . .

- 1958 Farm Outlook
- Market Boards on Trial
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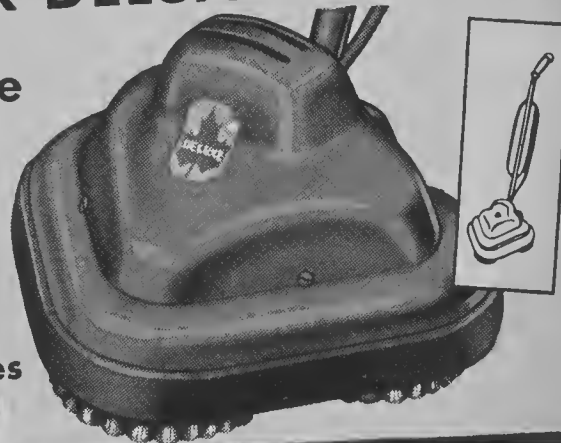
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MARKETING BOARD CRISIS? This is Jesse Gray, president of the Ontario Flue-cured Tobacco Marketing Board, which opened for business in time to handle the 1957 crop. It is one of the "big three" in Ontario now marketing hogs, peaches and tobacco respectively. Much will depend on their success or failure, not only for the farmers of that province, but right across

Canada. For an up-to-the-minute analysis of the situation, read Don Baron's story, "Year of Crisis for Marketing Boards," on page 16.

SPECIAL DAYS. For all who will be celebrating Burns Night on January 25, there's a gay tale by Kerry Wood, "The Tartaned Hootlet," on page 15. You don't have to be a Scot to enjoy it. Also, for sweethearts young and old, there's "The Old-Time Valentine Party" on page 43.

PRICE SUPPORTS are the number one topic among Canadian farmers as they advance into 1958. A summary of the Government's proposals for stabilizing the prices of agricultural products is on page 7 of this issue. A commentary on price supports appears on page 50.

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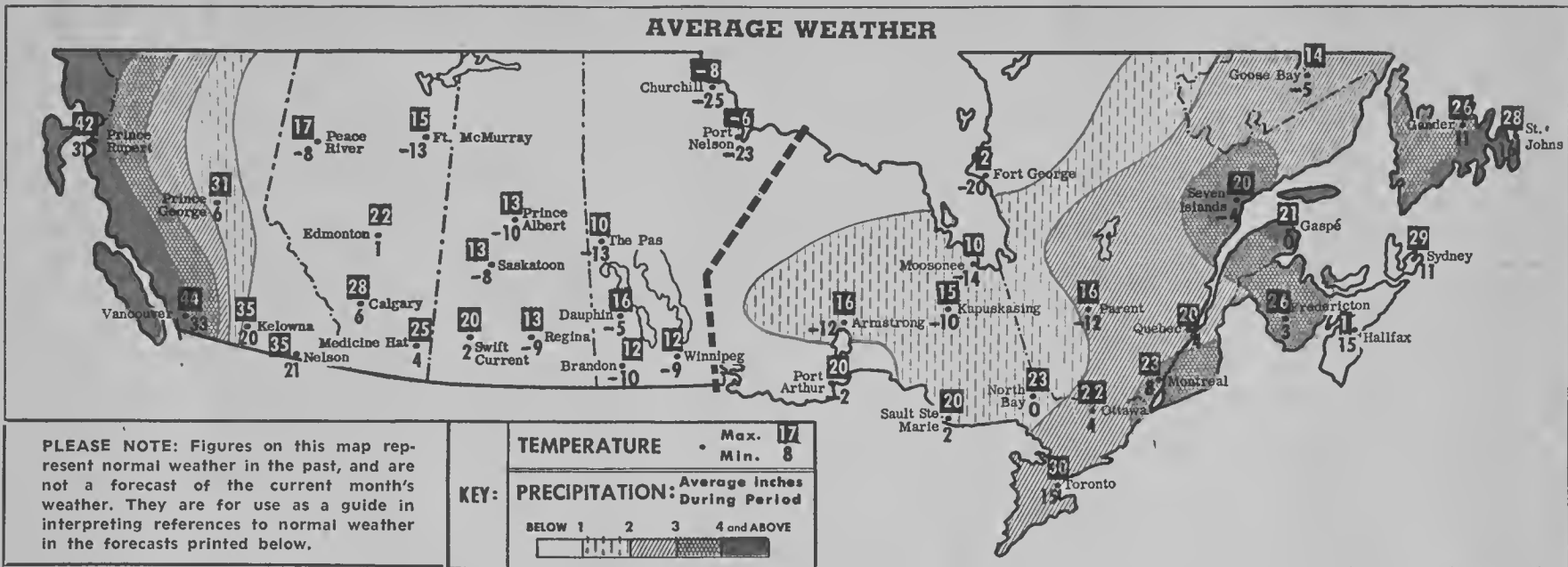
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FEBRUARY 1958

Alberta

Much colder than normal temperatures will be the rule in northern Alberta in February, although the southern third of the province will enjoy temperatures near normal, or slightly above, as most of the cold air slides eastward through the north. A major cold outbreak between 4th and 9th of February will be primarily responsible for the dip in the monthly average—and this outbreak will drop temperatures far below zero even in

the southern extremes of the province. Other cold outbreaks can be expected between 12th and 14th, between 21st and 24th, and again between 26th and 28th—with a sustained period of mild weather at mid-month bringing temperatures above freezing, for two or three days, to much of the province. Brief snows between 3rd and 5th will be followed by more important snows between 9th and 12th, 17th and 20th, and 25th and 28th. Precipitation will be above normal. V

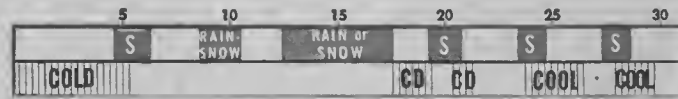
PRECIPITATION
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**Ontario**

A cold month is in prospect for all of Ontario, as frequent cold outbreaks pushing toward the Great Lakes keep temperatures below normal. Precipitation will be slightly deficient in the northern extremes of the province, while the Lakes region can expect moisture up to 125 per cent of normal. Most important period of storminess in the Lakes region will occur between 8th and 11th of the month, with another stormy period

over the entire province due between 4th and 7th. Storminess will be frequent during the latter half of the month, with intermittent snows beginning around 12th and continuing about every three days through the balance of February. A sustained period of cold weather, lasting during the first week, will drop temperatures to near zero even in the southern extremes. Lesser cold outbreaks can be expected about every three days during the last half of the month. V

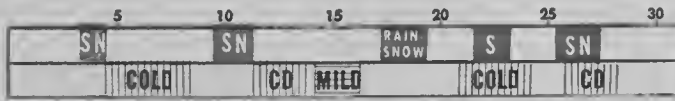
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**Saskatchewan**

Temperatures over Saskatchewan in February will range from much colder than normal in the northern extremes up to near normal or slightly above in the southwestern corner. The month's most extreme cold period can be expected between 5th and 9th, when temperatures will drop well below zero over the entire area, ranging to nearly 30 degrees below in places. Another important cold outbreak between 21st and 24th will

bring equally low temperatures, while cold outbreaks between 12th and 14th and between 26th and 29th will be of lesser intensity. A period of mild weather at mid-month should offer two or three days with temperatures in the 30's. Precipitation will be heavier than normal over most of the province, and most important in the west-central areas. Major periods of storminess can be expected between 10th and 12th, 18th and 20th, and between 26th and 28th of February. V

PRECIPITATION
FEB.
TEMPERATURE

**Quebec**

During February, western Quebec will have temperatures as much as two degrees below normal, while central area temperatures will be near normal, and the temperatures will range up to two degrees above normal in the east. Precipitation will be heavier than normal in the south, lighter than normal in the north, with the most important moisture accumulating in the extreme east. An extended cold outbreak, lasting nearly

the entire first week of the month, will drop temperatures to near zero as far south as Montreal. Lesser cold outbreaks will be frequent during the latter half, with cold moving in about every three days. Storminess can be expected between 4th and 7th, and again between 8th and 11th, with the latter period most important in the Lakes region. Intermittent storminess, setting in about 12th, can be expected about every three days during the latter half of the month. V

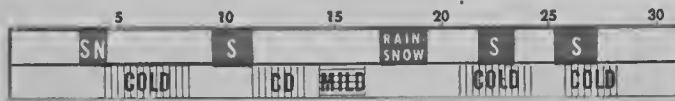
PRECIPITATION
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**Manitoba**

Manitoba will be directly in the path of frequent cold outbreaks in February. The result will be generally colder than normal temperatures over the province. Average mercury readings will range from more than four degrees below normal in the north to about two degrees below normal in the south. Moisture will be deficient in the northern areas, but slightly heavier than normal rain and snow can be expected in southern ex-

tremes. Sustained cold during the first week of February will set the pattern, with lesser cold outbreaks coming in rapid-fire sequence during the last 12 days of the month. Two outbreaks of storminess, one following 5th and another centered around 10th of February, will be followed by a sustained period of intermittent storminess beginning about 12th. Storminess can be expected about every three days through the latter half of the month. V

PRECIPITATION
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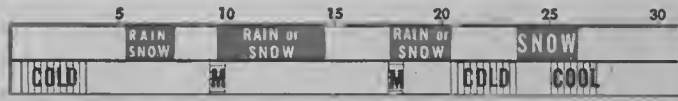
**Maritime Provinces**

A mild, damp month of February is in store for most of the Maritime Provinces in 1958—with temperatures over the region generally expected to range from normal to two degrees above normal, and with precipitation heavier than normal over the entire region.

Three major periods of cold weather will be noted during the month, with a cold outbreak between 1st and 4th dropping temperatures to near zero,

and with two cold spells between 20th and 27th again dropping temperatures to near zero at most cities. But in between the cold outbreaks, temperatures will be on the mild side at mid-month, with the mercury frequently climbing into the high 30's and 40's as the first signs of spring begin to appear in the Maritimes. Major storminess can be expected between 10th and 15th of February, with lesser stormy periods following 5th, 17th and 23rd of the month. V

PRECIPITATION
FEB.
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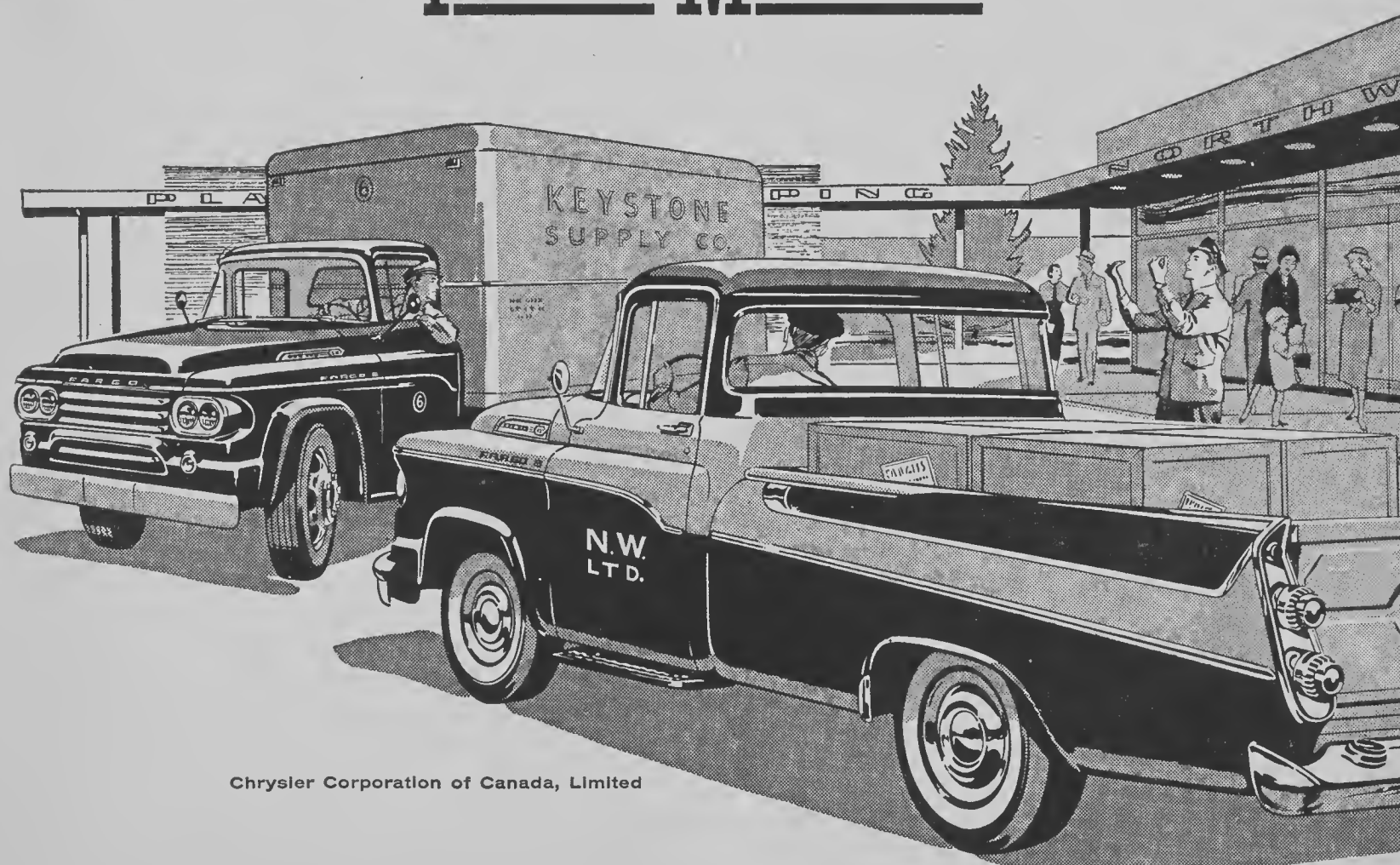
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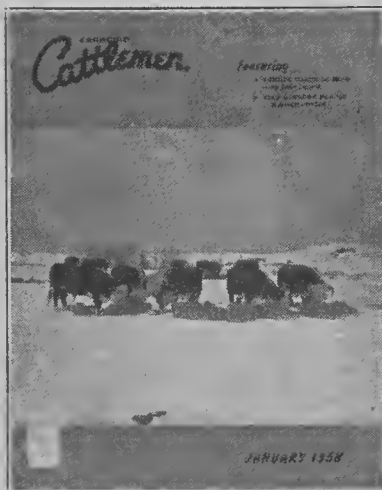
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GUIDEPOSTS

UP-TO-DATE FARM MARKET FORECASTS

WHEAT EXPORTS are now around levels of a year ago and from now on should climb ahead. An increase in amount of credit available for special deals should clinch some extra sales. However, competition in world markets is stiff and deals costly, so exports may not exceed Government goal of 300,000,000 bushels.

HOG MARKETINGS are up, especially in West. Early indications pointed to a substantial increase in marketings in Eastern Canada which has not yet developed. If upward trend in output continues, prices will weaken but likely to stay above floor levels until fall.

INCREASED EGG EXPORTS have sharply reduced last fall's record supplies, and lowered U.S. production will help our market situation, but price prospects for this year will not differ greatly from last year's. Even so, present price support levels are an incentive for specialized producers.

SOYBEANS SET A NEW PRODUCTION RECORD in 1957. Exports to the U.K., where we have special tariff advantages, will be more than counterbalanced by large imports to meet domestic requirements. Record U.S. crop will dampen price prospects here.

POTATO MARKETS may gain some strength in the new year. Prairie prices have been good, reflecting small crops, but imports are moving in to dull the edge. United States diversion programs and prospects for smaller early crops may stimulate Eastern position.

TURKEY PRICES are not likely to improve this year. In fact, with greater specialization and large volume production on the increase, profit margins per bird will tend to drift down to those now common in the United States. Price supports and import controls, probably in modified form, will be maintained.

APPLE PRICES have been weak under influence of large supplies, but crop has been moving briskly. Nova Scotia shippers have tripled exports and movement from British Columbia is ahead of a year ago. Storage stocks, though not excessive, are up.

BUTTER PRODUCTION has increased at a striking rate during past few months, casting shadows on a rosy outlook. Higher milk output and some switching among products are main causes. Situation is not yet serious as some increased output is necessary to supply domestic market.

UNITED STATES EXPORTS, after a spectacular display last season, are expected to be off some 15 per cent this year. Cotton, wheat and rice will be the big losers as pressure of export programs switches to feed grains. Special deals will remain a big factor accounting for two-fifths of total value.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

New Support Price Legislation

LEGISLATION, which if enacted will be substituted for the existing Agricultural Prices Support Act, was placed before Parliament in mid-December by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Douglas Harkness. The stated purpose of the new legislation is to stabilize the prices of agricultural commodities in order to assist those in the industry to realize fair returns for their labor and investment, and to maintain a fair relationship between prices received by farmers and the costs of goods and services that farmers buy.

The bill is similar to the Agricultural Prices Support Act to the extent that it is based on the general principle of providing a flexible price support system for Canadian agriculture. The Minister, in introducing the legislation, rejected the idea of establishing a rigid price support system based on 100 per cent of parity as being impractical and unworkable. He based his argument against adopting such a system on the experience which the United States has had with its parity price program.

At the time of writing, the bill in amended form has reached the stage of second reading in the House of Commons. Since it is still possible for this measure to either undergo further amendment, or result in the defeat of the Government, this account will only attempt to summarize the main features of the bill as it stands at present. Wherever appropriate, it will contain the Minister of Agriculture's explanation of the various provisions in the legislation and some of the reasons for the legislation taking the form that it does.

THE main part of the bill proposes to establish a system of flexible *guaranteed price* supports, based on a 10-year moving average formula, for agricultural commodities as need dictates. These will be set in the early months of each year and will continue in force for 12 months after going into effect. The *base price* for a given commodity will be established by calculating the average price at representative markets for the 10 years immediately preceding the year for which the base price is being determined. The *guaranteed price* for the commodity will then be set as a percentage of the *base price*.

According to the Minister the guaranteed price might be set at 90, 100, or even 110 per cent of the base price. In arriving at this percentage for any commodity in any year the following factors will be taken into consideration: (a) the estimated cost of production on the average efficient farm; (b) supply of the commodity; (c) prospective domestic and export outlets for it; (d) price levels at which other commodities are being supported; (e) historical price information; (f) disposal and storage problems; (g) perishability of the commodity;

(h) the length of the production cycle; (i) the availability of funds; (j) the number of producers affected; and (k) the regional nature of the problem.

The Minister stated that the purposes of the moving average formula method of determining the base price are to assure stability of income to farmers by protecting them against a drastic decline in prices; to provide for a gradual adjustment through prices due to changes in consumption habits, losses of export outlets and radical technological advances; and to provide flexibility so that prompt and desirable adjustments may be made as conditions warrant.

It should be noted that this statement was made by the Minister before he changed the moving average base period from 3 to 10 years, following consultations with farm organization representatives. He had indicated that the reason for recommending the 3-year moving average as a base is that the shorter the base and the closer it is to the current market situation, the more accurately it reflects market changes. The 3-year average would not perpetuate abnormal conditions for as long as an average calculated for a greater number of years.

Under the proposed legislation, all agricultural commodities will be eligible for guaranteed price supports, except wheat, oats and barley grown in the area under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board. The reason for excluding such grains, the Minister explained, is not to interfere in any way with the operations of the Wheat Board, which the great majority of farmers in Western Canada strongly support.

IN addition to the flexible guaranteed prices, which will be the ones in general use, the legislation contains a basic security feature for farmers. This security feature provides that minimum floor prices of 80 per cent of the base price will be mandatory and will be permanently in effect for the following key commodities: cattle, hogs and sheep; butter, cheese and eggs; and wheat, oats and barley not produced in the designated area as defined in the Canadian Wheat Board Act. The Minister explained that it is not expected that these minimum floor prices will be the guaranteed prices in effect. The guaranteed prices will be higher in most cases, but this provision is written into the legislation so the farmer will be absolutely assured that, no matter how prices may slide, he will at the very least receive 80 per cent of the base price for the above named key commodities.

The legislation provides for the establishment of an Agricultural Stabilization Board consisting of three members appointed by the Governor in Council. They will be responsible for carrying on the operations of the

system, and be responsible to the Governor in Council or the Minister of Agriculture.

Provision is made that the guaranteed price may be made effective by the Board by (a) purchasing the commodity; (b) paying deficiency payments; and (c) making such other payments as the Governor in Council may direct. The bill also provides for the appointment of an Advisory Committee, consisting of a chairman and at least six, but not more than nine, other members, composed of farmers and representatives of farm organizations. The function of the committee will be to advise the Minister and the Board with respect to what commodities should be under guarantee for the next 12 months and the percentage of the base price at which each commodity should be supported.

It is envisaged that as soon as possible after January 1 in each year the Board will assemble the statistical information necessary and will determine the base price for each commodity under price guarantee, as well as for any other commodity for which it seems likely that a price guarantee will be required.

The Advisory Committee will then meet the Board to make its recommendation, and the two will confer together. The Board will in turn make its recommendations to the Government. The final responsibility for setting the guaranteed prices for the ensuing 12-month period will rest with the Government, which may accept the Board's recommendations, alter them or reject them. ✓

CASH ADVANCE PAYMENTS

The minister of Trade and Commerce, the Hon. Gordon Churchill, made the following figures available on the cash advances which have been made to prairie grain growers on farm-stored grain up to December 18, 1957:

Province	Number of Applications	Total Amount Advanced	Total Amount Refunded
Manitoba	7,597	\$ 4,942,911	\$127,042
Saskatchewan	17,758	13,866,410	246,838
Alberta	5,187	3,472,040	34,956
Totals	30,542	\$22,281,361	\$408,836

FARMERS MAY BE GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY

According to a front-page story in the Toronto Globe and Mail, the Ontario Government is seriously considering withdrawing from all farm marketing legislation, and leaving it to the farmers' organizations to regulate their own members. It appears that the Government believes it has become too closely identified with the enforcement of farm marketing legislation, and as a result is subjected to too much pressure from various groups.

Just what form the possible withdrawal might take is open to conjecture at time of writing. It may only mean that the Farm Products Marketing Board will play a less active part in future, in sizing up public opinion, and in bringing the boards into existence. It could mean, as the Globe and Mail suggests editorially, that the compulsory features of existing legislation will be eliminated, and individual producers permitted to decide whether to join any marketing scheme.

It seems unlikely that this last mentioned possibility has any validity, in

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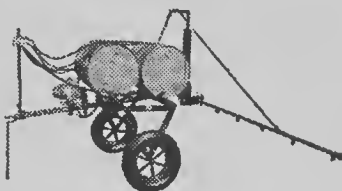
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

view of the strong support Agriculture Minister Goodfellow has given to producer-controlled marketing plans. Mr. Goodfellow has always talked of farmers running their own show. He has frequently referred to the marketing legislation as a means to a more effective self-help program. The indication of a change in the Government's position is more likely to have arisen from this, than a desire to take the teeth from the legislation. ✓

FREIGHT RATES RISE

The Board of Transport Commissioners has authorized a further freight rate increase of 3.6 per cent, worth about \$15 million to the railways. The railways have been seeking a boost of 10 per cent, which would have produced about \$35 million a year for them. The authorized increases may be put into effect by the railways January 15. It is reported that this latest rate hike will be appealed by one or more of the western provinces. ✓

NEW APPROACH TO BEEF PRODUCTION

Taking their cue from the rapid strides made by the poultry broiler industry, one of the largest corporations in the United States is making plans to offer beef producers a complete "package" deal. They will supply an artificial insemination service free-of-charge, and agree to buy the whole calf crop of any producer who signs a contract. This will enable a small operator to breed his cows to some of the best bulls in the country, cut animal losses by reducing the incidence of transmitted disease, and relieve him of all marketing worries. The company hopes to gain an assured supply of top quality meat. ✓

WORLD WHEAT SUPPLIES AND EXPORTS DECLINE

Supplies of wheat remaining on or about November 1 in the four major exporting countries for export and for carry-over were some 10 per cent smaller than a year earlier at 2,107 million bushels versus 2,342 million, according to the November issue of the Wheat Review. Supplies were held as follows, with last year's figures in brackets (in millions of bushels): United States, 1,114.2 (1,290.8); Canada, 864.0 (904.6); Argentina, 79.9 (50.6); and Australia, 49.1 (96.0).

Total exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat from the four major exporting countries for the first quarter (August-October) of the current crop year, at 211.7 million bushels, were about 20 per cent below total shipments of 265.0 million during the comparable quarter a year earlier.

All four countries shared in the decline in exports, but the percentage decline in Canadian shipments was less than for any of the other three countries concerned. Exports by countries in the three months were: United States, 92.8 million bushels (118.8 a year earlier); Canada, 72.5 (81.1); Argentina, 21.5 (24.2); and Australia, 24.9 (40.9).

Canada's share of the total shipments from the four countries during the first quarter of the crop year amounted to 34.2 per cent, compared with 30.6 in August-October, 1956. ✓

P.E.I. FIRST CERTIFIED AREA

Prince Edward Island has been declared a brucellosis certified area according to the Veterinary Director General of the Canada Department of Agriculture, Dr. K. F. Wells. This is the first area in Canada to have qualified for certification under the brucellosis control area regulations. A certified area represents the highest standard of freedom from brucellosis disease. Cattle from such an area can qualify for export with a minimum of restrictions. An area may be declared certified if the number of infected cattle is not greater than 1 per cent of the total cattle population, and the number of herds with infected animals does not exceed 5 per cent of all herds.

Under the program, cattle showing a positive reaction to brucellosis blood tests are removed from the herds and slaughtered. Compensation for infected cattle is paid to owners by the Canada Department of Agriculture. ✓

ALBERTA GROWERS WANT MARKETING BOARD

Vegetable grower association locals in the Taber-Barnwell, Raymond-Magraw and Coaldale areas of Alberta have joined forces to form a strong central organization which will press for the establishment of a marketing board for their products. It is reported that a plebiscite, as required by provincial legislation, will be called early in 1958. ✓

NEW TOBACCO BELT?

There may be another tobacco belt in the offing which will permit another group of farmers to cash in on the high dollar value of the crop.

It's too early to tell yet, because preliminary investigations are still incomplete at the Kentville Experimental Farm in Nova Scotia. However, scientist Don MacKay of the



Dr. D. MacKay of the Kentville Farm examines tobacco leaf grown in N.S.

farm staff has been growing tobacco for two years in spots of the big sand area that forms a part of the Annapolis Valley. He reports, "We have grown successfully crops that appear to be good, and we are sending samples to the Experimental Farm at Delhi (in Ontario's rich tobacco belt) for comparison with the flue-cured tobacco grown there."

Tobacco crops can return growers up to \$1,000 per acre in revenue, and could make an important addition to the Nova Scotia farm scene. ✓

The reader comes first! Don't hesitate to write The Country Guide to suggest how our magazine can serve your farm, your family and your community. The address is The Country Guide, Winnipeg 2, Man.

What Farm Organizations Are Doing

SFU TO REJOIN FEDERATION

The Saskatchewan Farmers Union, at its annual meeting held in Regina December 3 to 6, voted by a narrow margin to rejoin the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture. This decision was made on the basis of a joint committee report which will result in the tightening of SFA membership qualifications, and the establishment of a financial formula for the Federation.

The SFU convention, in a resolution on foreign trade, urged the Federal Government to extend credit to countries for purchases of wheat; investigate trade prospects in eastern Asiatic countries; extend gifts of grain to needy countries as Canada's contribution to the Colombo Plan; adopt a policy of barter trade; accept foreign currencies; and, support free trade with the United Kingdom.

Other resolutions pressed for a royal commission to investigate producer-consumer price spreads and the cost-price squeeze being experienced by farmers; unemployment insurance for farm labor; an all-risk crop insurance plan; long term, low interest credit for young farmers; a producer egg marketing plan; and, a reduced railway tariff on rapeseed. ✓

FORCEFUL BRIEF TO ONTARIO MEMBERS

Ontario Federation of Agriculture representatives, following the annual meeting of the organization, presented a forceful and well documented brief to the Ontario Members of Parliament in Ottawa. They expressed indignation at the depressed condition of agriculture in an otherwise prosperous and buoyant economy, scored cheap food policies, and called for much needed and justified public aid for the farming industry.

A summary of the more important recommendations made in the brief called for:

- The use of deficiency payments as a method of supporting farm prices for the entire range of farm commodities.
- The adoption, without delay, of the CFA policy on farm credit, which calls for the raising of the maximum loan to \$20,000, and the reduction of the present interest rate by at least 1½ per cent.
- The implementation of import controls and quotas on foreign produced farm commodities, and protection from the dumping of such products on the Canadian market.
- The establishment of higher floor prices for farm products; an increase in the premium on Grade A hogs to \$4; the application of a floor price of \$14 per ton for sugar beets; and the establishment of floor prices for beef and Ontario winter wheat.
- The imposing of a tariff on American potatoes coming into Canada, to be equal at all points to that paid on

potatoes going to the U.S. from this country.

• The setting up of a surplus disposal program and the machinery for making loans to marketing boards, co-operatives and marketing agencies, for the purpose of dealing with temporary surpluses and the purchase of storage facilities. ✓

MORE AGGRESSIVE SUPPORT POLICY SOUGHT

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture, in a presentation to Minister of Agriculture Harkness, early in December, called for a much more aggressive policy in supporting farm prices than has been apparent in the past. The presentation was made immediately following a two-day meeting of the organization's board of directors, at which its own price support policy was fully reviewed in the light of the Government's announced intention to introduce new legislation in this field.

Specifically, the CFA delegation reiterated the stand that deficiency payments, as a method of supporting farm prices, can be an important means, in addition to market price supports, of carrying out a more aggressive and adequate support program.

The delegation reminded the Minister of the CFA request for deficiency payments by the Wheat Board for the 1955-56 crop year, and called for such grains to have supports placed on them in advance, at all times, as a matter of price support policy. In the case of wheat produced outside the area under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board, the delegation requested that it be one of those commodities for which supports would be set annually and in advance of the crop year. Other commodities, which the delegation felt should come in the mandatory category for price supports are: cheese, butter, concentrated milk products, eggs, poultry meat and bacon hogs. They emphasized, however, that there should be a full opportunity for market price supports and deficiency payments to be applied on all other farm commodities, when required.

The presentation went on to make these five additional points:

1. The dairy industry, in view of its current position, definitely needs a higher level of supports, if it is to continue to serve the Canadian people.
2. Price supports should be set as near as possible to fair relationship prices as is feasible. Under no circumstances should they be set at less than 70 per cent of parity, as calculated by the CFA formula, and only in exceptional cases should supports be set at such a low level.
3. The Government's new price support legislation should embody a formula as a guide to establishing farm price supports—such a formula to be so constructed as to re-

flect the vital relationship between farm costs and farm prices.

4. Consultations should be held with the CFA Price Support and Price Review Committee, before price supports are established by the Government on any commodity.
5. The principle should be adopted of establishing support prices on the basis of a price which shall be paid to the producer, rather than to the trade. ✓

CURTIS HEADS N.S. ABATTOIR CAMPAIGN

The N.S. Federation of Agriculture has announced that Douglas Curtis, of Onslow, will head up the forthcoming campaign for finances to build a co-operatively owned abattoir for the province. The objective of the fund-raising campaign is \$400,000, which Mr. Curtis is confident will be oversubscribed by a sizeable amount. Campaigns in the 18 counties of the province are at present being considered. According to the NSFA, every sound-thinking farmer who produces livestock will realize the need of facilities to process animals in such a way that the proper value is passed back to the farmer. The Nova Scotia Government has agreed that for every \$1 invested in the abattoir by the producers, it will make \$3 available. ✓

FUA HOLDS ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Farmers' Union of Alberta, meeting in annual convention in Edmonton the week of December 9, considered a wide range of farm problems and programs. The following were among the decisions reached by the delegates.

The Alberta Farm Purchase Credit Act would require amendment if it was to become effective legislation of help to young farmers wishing to buy farms. The Act, passed at the last session of the legislature, provides for 20-year loans of up to \$7,500 at 5½ per cent interest. A resolution approved by the convention recommended changes so that the buyer would make a down payment of 20 per cent of the farm's purchase price, and make up the balance with a 30-year government loan at 4 per cent interest, with the maximum loan being raised to \$20,000. It called for the abolition of municipal liability in the scheme, and the government appointment of a credit board which would be responsible for supervising both the lending and collecting of the loans.

A change in the FUA's trade policy, which was described as "earth-shaking," was agreed to by the delegates. A resolution supported the use of tariffs, quotas and embargos against the entry of food products into Canada, whose importation causes hardship to Canadian producers, or whose entry interferes with the functioning of price support legislation, until such time as the lowering of tariff barriers, all around, occurs. The FUA policy had previously been one of free trade.

The delegated body insisted that any proposed system of price supports should include negotiated prices at a parity level, and that these should be set a year in advance so production could be planned. Such prices should apply to products for the domestic markets, while products for the export

market would be sold at world prices. Deficiency payments would be made to producers when the market price fell below the agreed forward prices, such payments to be made to the extent of guaranteeing the farmer a "basic minimum gross income."

The Convention agreed to seek an extension of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act into a complete crop insurance plan with larger benefits and more complete coverage. It was felt that the extension of PFAA should be made in co-operation with the provincial governments, who should bear part of the cost.

The delegates called for equalization of floor prices for hogs at \$30 per hundredweight, and the raising of the floor prices for turkeys to 40 cents a pound. ✓

ALBERTA FARMERS REQUEST NEW VOTE

We won but we lost, was the comment that most Alberta farm leaders made after hearing the results of the recent egg marketing plan plebiscite in that province, according to Jack McFall, secretary of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture.

The Alberta Marketing Act requires a favorable vote of 51 per cent of all registered producers before a plan can be put into effect. Plebiscite results showed that 13,729 farmers voted for the egg marketing plan, while 3,844 opposed it. Since there were 28,359 on the final voters' list, there were 10,786 farmers who did not exercise their franchise. On the basis of the legislation, the vote failed by 2.59 per cent. However, those who cast favorable ballots represented 78.12 per cent of the farmers who voted.

The AFA believes there is little doubt that the decision would have been favorable had the registration of producers who were eligible to vote been accurate. Reports from all parts of the province indicated that the work of enumeration was carelessly done. This has led to much dissatisfaction, which was vigorously expressed at the annual meeting of the Farmers' Union of Alberta. FUA delegates unanimously endorsed a resolution asking that a new plebiscite be held without delay.

One of the most disturbing facts about the first plebiscite, which the Alberta Egg Marketing Committee cannot reconcile, is that 26,900 producers were listed as having 50 or more laying hens, while the 1956 Agricultural census indicated that the number of producers in the province having 47 or more hens and pullets capable of laying eggs as being 18,355. The committee, comprised of representatives of the AFA, FUA and provincial poultry organizations, believes that this difference cannot be accounted for in increased production.

The request for a new plebiscite has already been made to the Minister of Agriculture, who has agreed to place it before the Cabinet. ✓

FEED GRAIN TRANSACTIONS

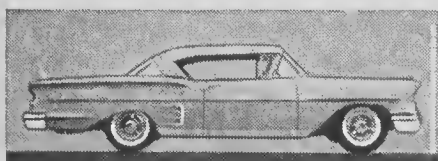
The B.C. Federation of Agriculture approved a resolution at its recent annual convention requesting that licenses be issued by the Canadian Wheat Board which would permit

(Please turn to page 34)

Chevrolet...

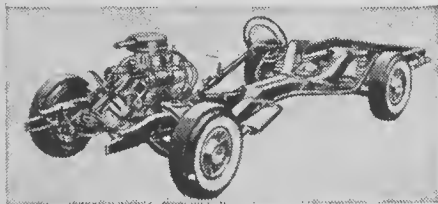
Feature Story for '58!

The new things about Chevrolet in '58 are making headlines! New engines, new ride, new looks, new conveniences...all add up to a spectacular stride forward...make Chevy almost too new to be true!



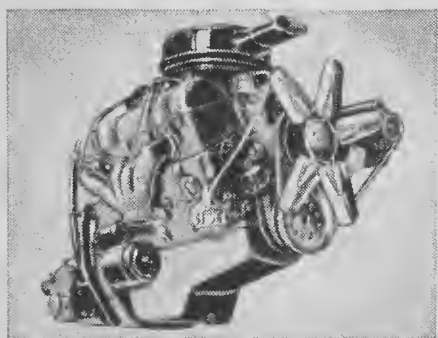
New Dimensions in Comfort

Chevrolet for '58 is up to 3.5 inches lower, 9.2 inches longer, 3.8 inches wider and has a full inch more road clearance.



Husky Safety-Girder Frame

Chevrolet's brawny new Safety-Girder frame is not merely X-braced, it's actually *X-built*... the strongest protection for you and your family!



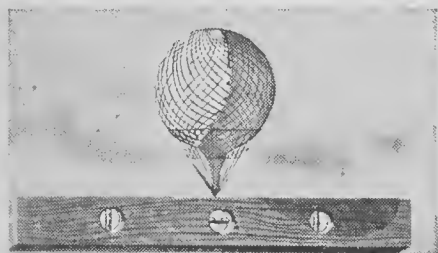
Mighty Turbo-Thrust V8

So new it even LOOKS different! Chevrolet's triumphant new Turbo-Thrust V8 is performance at its NEWEST! This optional engine breathes more deeply, gets greater going from fuel — you'll thrill to its new smoothness, new brilliance.



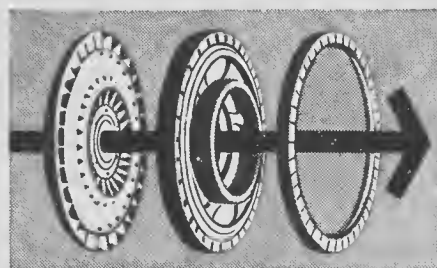
Fabulous Full Coil Suspension

Chevrolet puts deep coil springs wonderfully to work at each wheel! This new sweeter ride is standard on all models for 1958. New road-smoothing comfort!



Cloud-soft Level Air Ride

Greatest advance of all in smooth going — Chevrolet's luxurious Level Air Ride, a real 4-wheel air ride! It's a natural cushion between you and the road. An exciting new option!



Cream-Smooth Turboglide

A new, superb turbine automatic drive. Takes you from a standstill, through cruising, in one continuous sweep of motion. With optional Turboglide you get the flowingest going on the road today.



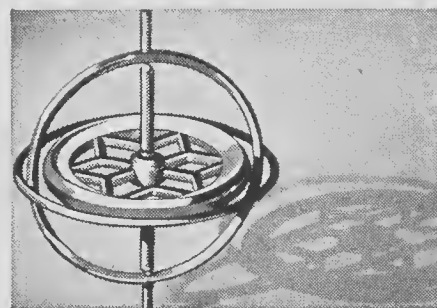
Foot-Operated Parking Brake

New convenience! Set the parking brake pedal with a toe-touch. Easy to use, it locks in any position, releases at a finger touch of the handy control lever on the dash.



Sure-Gripping Positraction

Positraction gives you added safety at the rear wheels. Should one wheel slip, Positraction automatically diverts power to the wheel which grips. You drive right out of situations which would strand other cars. Another wonderful Chevrolet option.



Rugged Stabilizer Bar

A spring steel bar which helps you keep a steady keel in even the tightest cornering. It adds to Chevrolet's rock-steady handling and hard-to-beat roadability. Standard on all V8 models.

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Get the FULL STORY from your **CHEVROLET** dealer NOW!

WORLD SITUATION

Key to Canadian Farm Prosperity

by E. C. HOPE

PRICES for farm products in Canada fell steadily from the peak levels of 1951 until the spring of 1956. A modest recovery took place until the middle of 1956, but they have drifted a little lower since then. On the average they are now only a little above the low level of the spring of 1956.

Farm costs fell slightly from 1952 to 1955, but have been rising since, and are now about 3 per cent higher than the peak levels of 1952. The end result is that the purchasing power of farm products as a whole fell from 110 in 1951 to a low of 80 in the spring of 1956; recovered to 85 in the summer of 1956; and have since fallen again to a low of 80. These figures express the farmer's overall parity position as far as prices are concerned.

The present level of 80 may be compared with an average level of 80 for 1923, following the severe deflation of 1920 to 1923, and a low of 61 reached in 1932. All the above data on prices and costs are based on an average level of 100 for the period 1925 to 1929.

THE tragedy of the present situation in agriculture is that the decline in the farmers' position has been so prolonged (6 years) that urban people are becoming accustomed to cheap food in terms of current wages. They are beginning to think that present conditions are normal. They have little knowledge of the almost frantic attempt of the industry to adjust itself to the world situation in agriculture. It must not be forgotten that the plight of Canadian agriculture is not an isolated event.

It is world-wide in its scope and varies only in degree from country to country.

THE INTERNATIONAL IMPACT ON CANADIAN AGRICULTURE

IT is not always generally recognized that there is a strong tendency for agriculture throughout the world to be tied into what one might call a world system. This tying together of national agricultures on a world basis is brought about through the international trade in basic or staple farm commodities, such as wheat, corn, cotton, rice, butter, cheese and some other farm products which enter into international trade. The prices of these products in turn affect the prices of other farm products within each country that do not enter international trade. For instance, if wheat prices tend to fall in Canada, the result is reflected in lower coarse grain prices and eventually lower prices for livestock products.

Table 1, taken from the recent annual report of FAO, "The State of Food and Agriculture, 1957," illustrates the above point very clearly.

For the past 10 years there has been a very close relationship between the index numbers of import prices of agricultural products in world markets and the index number of wholesale prices of all farm products in Canada. From 1947 to 1951 world import prices rose from an index of 82 to 116, and wholesale prices of Canadian farm products rose from an index of 81 to 114 during the same period. From 1951 to 1956 world import prices declined

TABLE 1

	Index of Import Prices of Farm Products in World Markets 1952-53=100	Index of Wholesale Prices of Canadian Farm Products
1947	82	81
1948	94	98
1949	89	97
1950	89	101
1951	116	114
1952	104	106
1953	96	94
1954	98	90
1955	95	90
1956	92	91
1957	N.A.	92 (preliminary)

from 116 to 92 and Canadian farm products fell from 114 to 91.

The downward trend in world prices for basic agricultural products, which is the result of full recovery of world agriculture from the scarcity of World War II and the first post-war years, has resulted in an agricultural depression only varying in degree from country to country.

THE monthly bulletins of Agricultural Economics and Statistics, published by FAO, tabulates prices received, prices paid and the parity ratio for a number of countries. Table 2 and Chart 1 show the movement of the parity ratio for the seven countries reported since 1947, including Canada, and average of the six other countries compared with Canada. The parity percentage shown here for Canada is higher than the one mentioned earlier, because a base period less favorable to agriculture (1952-53) is used. It should be noted that the ratio figures for 1957 are for the first 4-6 months. The six-country average for 1957 excludes Australia, because the data is not available.

Cost-Price Squeeze. The trend of the parity ratio, or let us say the purchasing power of farm products, has been falling in each of the countries over the past 10 years. In other words, the cost-price squeeze has been steadily increasing in all of these seven countries. The downtrend in Canada has been a little sharper than the average of the six countries. The reason for this world-wide cost-price squeeze is that industrial prices and wages in the world as a whole have tended to rise gradually, or at least remain stable, when surplus farm production on a world-wide basis has been forcing prices down.

Farm Prosperity Hinges on World Demand. In previous outlook articles in The Country Guide I have suggested that recovery would take place in world agriculture when world production slowed down compared with growth in world population. How does this situation look now?

Table 3, below, shows the estimated world per capita output of food from 1946-47 to 1956-57 as reported in annual reports of FAO.

TABLE 3
WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION PER CAPITA
(1948-49 to 1952-53=100)

		Per cent change
Pre-War	104	
1946-47	88	-15
1947-48	91	+3.4
1948-49	97	+6.6
1949-50	98	+1.0
1950-51	101	+3.1
1951-52	101	0
1952-53	104	+3.0
1953-54	105	+1.0
1954-55	105	0
1955-56	106	+1.0
1956-57	107	+0.9

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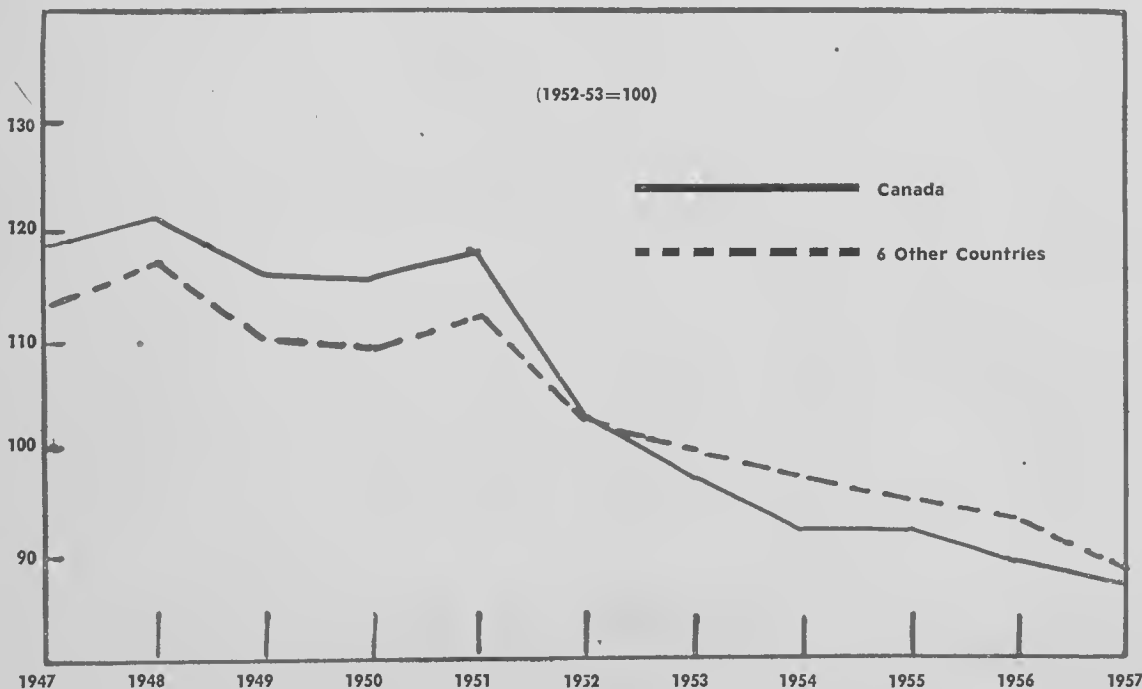
TABLE 2

RATIO BETWEEN PRICES PAID BY FARMERS AND PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR PERIOD
1947 to 1957—SEVEN COUNTRIES
(1952-53=100)

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Australia	97	118	108	123	149	99	101	96	93	94	N.A.
United States	119	114	103	105	111	104	96	89	87	85	84
Netherlands	112	108	105	109	103	101	99	93	93	95	87
Belgium	117	125	113	103	108	102	98	96	87	83	83
Switzerland	109	109	107	108	101	100	100	102	100	99	97
Norway	125	127	125	106	103	101	99	107	113	97	95
Av. 6 Countries	113	117	110	109	112	101	99	97	95	93	89
Canada	119	121	116	115	118	103	97	92	92	89	87

CHART 1

RATIO OF INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS TO PRICES PAID FOR COMMODITIES AND SERVICES BY FARMERS—AVERAGE SIX COUNTRIES AND CANADA



Forecast for '58

Each year, the Economics Division of the Marketing Service, Canada Department of Agriculture, issues a forecast for the coming year. Here is a brief summary of the main features of the outlook for 1958

AS was reported in the December issue of The Country Guide, last year saw a leveling off in the Canadian economy, following the swift expansion of the two previous years. However, despite reduced activity in some industries in 1957, total personal income continued to increase, allowing Canadians to increase their volume of consumption.

Meanwhile, farm production fell in 1957 below that of 1956, almost entirely on account of poorer Western grain crops. It is estimated that farm cash income for 1957 was about the same as in 1956, or \$2.7 billion; but net farm income was probably

lower in 1957, owing to increases in operating expenses and lower year-end inventories.

From what information is available at the present time; it appears that cash income from the sale of farm products in 1958 will be slightly higher than in 1957. Net income for farmers in 1958 is also likely to be higher than last year's, but when farm-held inventories are taken into account, the net income from farm operations will depend on the size of Western grain crops. Income from the sale of livestock and livestock products will probably be higher this year than in 1957.

to the U.S. can be expected before July 1958. The development of any new major markets is unlikely during this crop year.

Feed Grains. Total supplies of Canadian feed grains are estimated at 22.2 million tons in 1957-58, or 5 per cent below the previous crop year, but 26 per cent above the 10-year average. This year's drop was due mainly to lower production of oats and barley in the Prairie Provinces. Supplies of feed grains are reasonably well distributed at present. Exports of oats, mainly to the United States, may be about the same as a year earlier. Exports of malting, pot and pearl barley in this crop year may be about equal to the previous year, but exports of feed grades may be less. Domestic disappearance could be larger this year, reflecting an increase in grain-consuming livestock, and a continuing trend toward finish feeding of market cattle.

LIVESTOCK

Canada continued to be a net exporter of livestock in 1957, but only to the extent of 7 per cent of total marketings. There is expected to be an increase in output of about 8 per cent in 1958, and if this happens, supplies will probably outstrip the growth in domestic demand. On the other hand, livestock production is not expected to increase in the U.S.A., and increasing competition is likely from U.S. buyers on the Canadian livestock and meat markets.

Cattle show no evidence of reduction from the 2.2 million beef steers estimated in Canada at the middle of last year, but a prolonged winter or widespread drought could encourage liquidation of breeding stock. The estimate of net marketings in 1958 is 2.2 million head, which would be a record.

Coupled with lower prices for pork, the prices of Canadian beef cattle in 1958 should keep at export levels, except early in the year, when high quality beef will likely be short, and prices may go above U.S. levels. A probable increase in U.S. prices is likely to be reflected in Canada, and particularly in the latter half of 1958. Consequently, the domestic disappearance per capita of beef in Canada will probably decline for the first time since 1950.

Calves. Dairy herds were slightly smaller in June 1957, compared with a year earlier. Calf marketings in 1958 are not expected to exceed 990,000 head, which is the estimated total for 1957. Prices for top quality calves could be higher than last year's in the first nine months of 1958. Lower quality may bring slightly lower prices than a year earlier, during the peak of the season.

Hogs. Marketings of hogs during the first nine months of 1958 are estimated at roughly 4.6 million, or a 16 per cent increase in each quarter over a year earlier. Prospects are uncertain for the last quarter, but there is little evidence of a decline from the 1.6 million estimated to have been marketed in the final quarter of 1957. Total hog marketings in 1958 are forecast at 6.2 million, or 11 per cent more than in 1957, and the highest since 1952.

If this happens, prices will remain substantially below 1957 during the first 9 or 10 months, depending partly on U.S. prices. However, Canadian prices are expected to remain above prices for comparable grades in the U.S.A., if by a narrower margin than a year earlier. Exports of pork to the U.S.A. should increase substantially, relieving some pressure on the home market. The domestic disappearance of pork is expected to rise in response to lower pork prices and higher beef prices. This should be sufficient to offset the anticipated decline in per capita beef consumption.

Sheep and Lambs. A slight drop in the adult sheep population noted in June 1957, compared with 1956, suggests that this year's marketings will be slightly lower than the estimated 636,000 in 1957. This will be subject to the weather at lambing time. The domestic consumption of lamb will continue to be bolstered by lamb and mutton imports.

Wool production is unlikely to exceed the total for 1957, estimated at 7.8 million pounds. Average prices for Canadian wool should be higher in September and October 1958, than a year earlier. The indications are that this strength will continue.

GRAINS AND FEEDS

Wheat. The estimated world wheat production in the 1957-58 crop year is 7.6 billion bushels, compared with last year's record of 7.8 billion. North American production is down because of a sharp reduction in Canadian output, but the European crop may be the largest on record. Production in the Soviet Union is large, but output is well below that of 1956. The Asian crop is larger, but the African crop is lower. Australia has been suffering a serious drought, and plantings were reduced in Argentina, so the output from these two important exporting countries will be down. Stocks available for export or carry-over held by Canada, the United States, Australia and Argentina, the four major exporters, amounted to 2,232.9 million bushels on September 1, or 11 per cent less than a year ago.

World exports of wheat and flour in 1957-58 are likely to fall below last year's record of 1,283 million bushels, owing to production increases expected in many of the major importing countries. Canada may get a larger share of the total market owing to the large selection of grades available for export and the new supplies of high protein wheat; through a lessening of U.S. barter activity; the possibility of broader markets in the Soviet Bloc; and through the likelihood of smaller crops in Australia and Argentina.

Domestic disappearance of wheat during 1957-58 is estimated at 160 million bushels. Exports may be the same as the recent average of 300 million bushels. Following the lower wheat production in 1957, carry-over stocks at July 31, 1958, could be well below those of a year earlier, but well above the 1950-54 average.

Rye. Supplies for the 1957-58 crop year are only slightly smaller than a year earlier. The U.S. import quota is 3,255,000 bushels in the 12-month period beginning July 1, and this quota was filled during last July, therefore no further exports from Canada

The expected total milk production for 1958 is 17.5 billion pounds, an increase of 100 million pounds over 1957, owing to slightly higher output per cow through better and more intensive feeding practices. Domestic disappearance may be 18 billion pounds of milk, with prices paid to producers about the same as in the latter part of 1957. Average returns should be slightly higher for the whole year.

Fluid Milk and Cream sales in 1958 will be probably higher than in 1957, owing to increases in population. Any tendency to lower per capita consumption should be offset by increased sales of low-fat products.

Ice Cream consumption and production will likely follow the same trends as fluid milk, with increases due to population change.

Creamery Butter production should be substantially higher in the first half of 1958 than in the same period last year. Production for the year, if returns from butter and skim powder remain attractive to manufacturers, could reach 315 million pounds, or 5 per cent above 1957. This could be done by diverting some milk from cheese factories and condenseries.

The price of butter in the first half of 1958 is expected to be higher than a year before. Domestic disappearance for the whole year is estimated at 335 million pounds, or 1.5 per cent above 1957.

Cheddar Cheese. Estimated stocks are now about 13 million pounds larger than in recent years. However, if Quebec cheese production declines as expected, stocks at mid-1958 are likely to be more normal in relation to domestic demand. A sizeable export of cheese during the year would reduce stocks still further and make the market firmer.

Concentrated Milk Products are unlikely in 1958 to reach the production level estimated for 1957, and exports are likely to be even less than last year's. Prices for the major products should be about the same as in the latter half of 1957. There may be a slight decline in per capita consumption, but offset by population growth to make it about the same as in 1957.

Evaporated Whole Milk stocks are about 48 million pounds now, or 10 million more than a year ago. Production in 1958 may be only 300 million pounds, compared with an estimated record

Major Product Trends

(These charts are based on information taken from the Current Review of Agricultural Conditions in Canada, published by the Canada Department of Agriculture)

of 316 million in 1957. Estimated consumption of 308 million pounds this year could reduce stocks to 40 million.

Dry Whole Milk exports are expected to drop from 12 million pounds in 1957 to about 7 million. Domestic demand may be 5 million pounds. A sharp reduction in output for 1958 is expected to show a drop to 10 million pounds from 19 million last year, owing to the high stocks.

Dry Skimmed Milk prospects depend on government policy in 1958, and the relative profitability of combined butter and powder output. If prices are unchanged in 1958, there may be a record output of skimmed milk. Domestic disappearance is expected to be 90 million pounds, or slightly less than last year.

POULTRY PRODUCTS

Eggs. Production for the first six months of 1958 is not expected to differ greatly from 1957 levels, according to the size of the replacement chick hatch. The hatch for the 12 months ending Aug. 31, 1957, totaled 67.2 million chicks, compared with 67.5 million a year earlier. The outlook for the latter half of 1958 depends on the replacement hatch in the next few months. However, with egg prices and prospects about the same as they were a year ago, no great change in the chick hatch is expected in the near future, and consequently little change in egg production.

Population growth and continued high spending on food should mean a stronger demand for eggs this year. Nevertheless, in view of the large supplies expected, egg prices are likely to average about the same in 1958 as in 1957. There is a chance of moderate to substantial exports to the U.S.A. at this time, which could reduce the volume of eggs in storage, and might even improve the price.

Poultry Meat. The increase in broiler chicken production will continue at about the same rate in 1958, with the further expansion of integrated production. It appears that consumption of broiler chickens can still be expanded, and additional marketings in sight for 1958 will likely be absorbed, with price patterns approximately the same. Development in broiler sales has cut severely into sales of other poultry meat.

Fowl marketings will depend largely on the price support policy for eggs and fowls. Unless some special incentive is provided, little change in the marketing of fowls is expected.

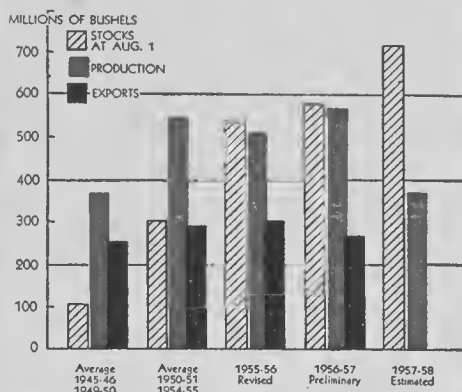
Turkeys will probably continue to increase in 1958, particularly on the Prairie, where grain marketing remains a problem. The stable price situation that developed in the last six months of 1957, due to import controls, is expected to continue in 1958, if the import policy remains the same.

FORAGE AND FEED

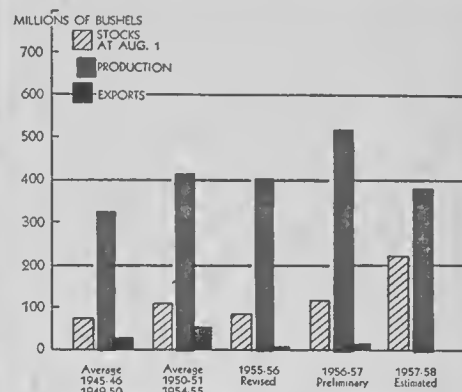
Forage supplies are considerably below a year earlier. Only in Ontario and British Columbia were crops larger than the previous year. Hay supplies are much below average and may cause shortages in some areas of the Maritime Provinces, while the Prairie Provinces have only a small margin of reserve.

Supplies of millfeeds are expected to show little change from the previous crop year. Stocks of soybean oil meal, which supplies about 40 per cent of all high protein supplements used in Canada, were 12 per cent higher during the first 8 months of 1957, compared with a year earlier, but output of other types of oil (Please turn to page 31)

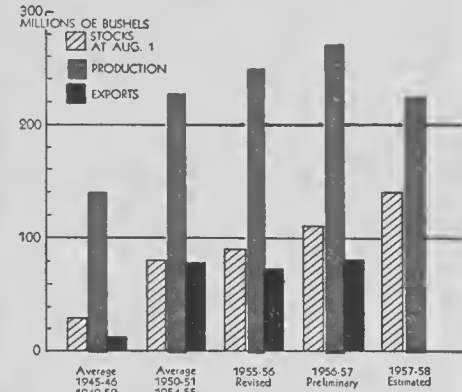
1. Wheat



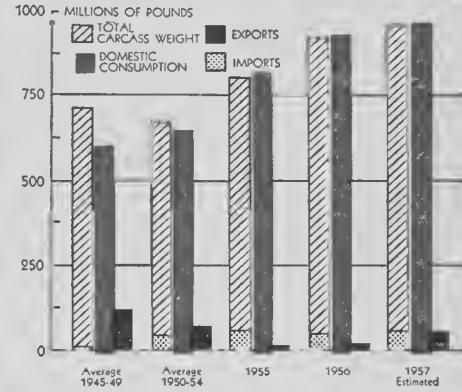
2. Oats



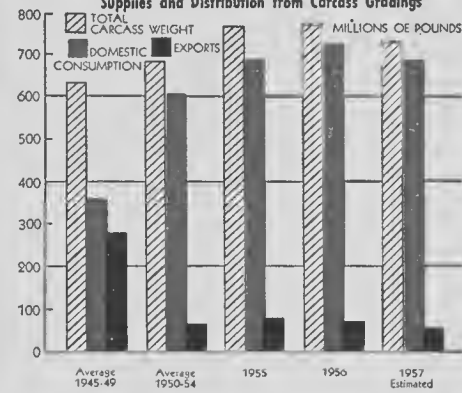
3. Barley



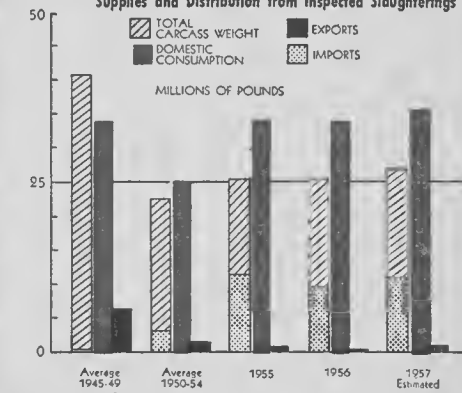
4. Beef: Supplies and Distribution from Inspected Slaughtering



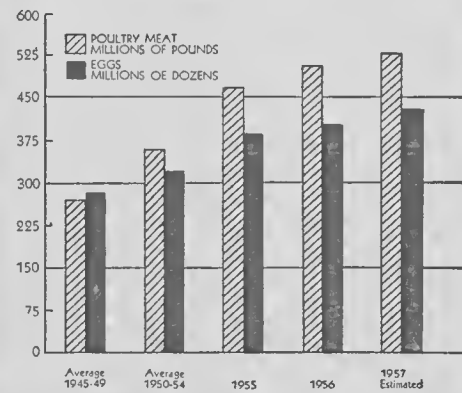
5. Pork Products:



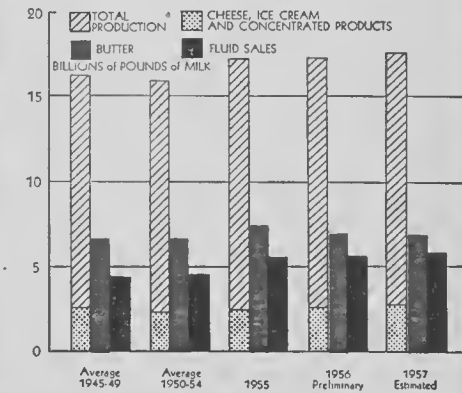
6. Mutton and Lamb:



7. Poultry Meat and Egg Consumption



8. Milk Production and Utilization





Lloyd Wilton's accredited Holstein herd and the alfalfa he feeds to them are coming under close scrutiny in his farm management program.

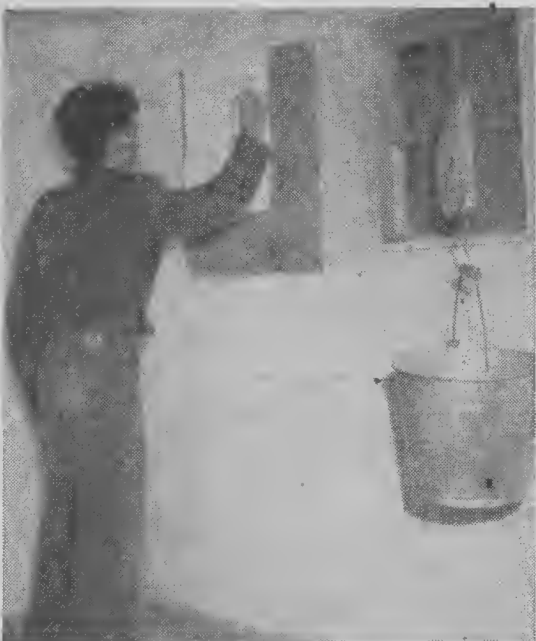


by
J. C.
GILSON



Farmers in Business Suits

Outwardly they may not look different, but by starting a farm management service, they are showing that they mean business



Careful weighing and recording of milk provides vital information, but production does not give the answers without a study of the costs.



A farm is a place to live, as well as work. What Mrs. Wilton is spending on food and on house-keeping is very important in farm management.

SOMEONE once said that "it is not the crook in modern business that we fear, but the honest man who does not know what he is doing." The modern-day farmer may be devoted to farming as a way of life, he may be an expert in raising crops and livestock, he may be willing to work 15 hours a day, but if he is shooting in the dark, he will find it difficult to hit his target.

Because they were not satisfied with farming merely as a "mode of life," 75 farmers in the Carman area of Manitoba decided in January 1957 to make an organized study of their business and its possibilities. The result was the Carman District Farm Business Association.

Actually, the story of this association began in 1948. At that time a few farmers in the district expressed the desire for a farm accounting club in the area. They felt that a well-kept set of accounts was becoming just as important to them in their business as the tractor or combine. Through the interest and efforts of Dr. Sol Sinclair of the University of Manitoba, and the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture and Co-operation, a farm accounting project was developed in the Carman district. The records were summarized and analyzed in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Manitoba.

The farmers soon concluded, however, that the farm accounting club should be regarded only as a stepping stone to an all-embracing farm management service. With this in mind, a group from the Carman district visited several colleges in the United States in 1953. Their biggest inspiration came from their visit to the University of Missouri where the "Balanced Farming" idea was fully explained.

The visiting group from Manitoba soon discovered that farmers in Missouri had the same types of "headaches" with respect to operating their farm businesses as did farmers in the Carman district. Many farmers in the "Show-me" State, however, had organized themselves into what they referred to as "Balanced Farming" associations, the Missouri term for complete farm and home plan-

ning. In 42 of the 114 counties in Missouri, farm people were using their own money to employ fieldmen to work full time on balanced farming. Bankers and other credit institutions worked very closely with the associations.

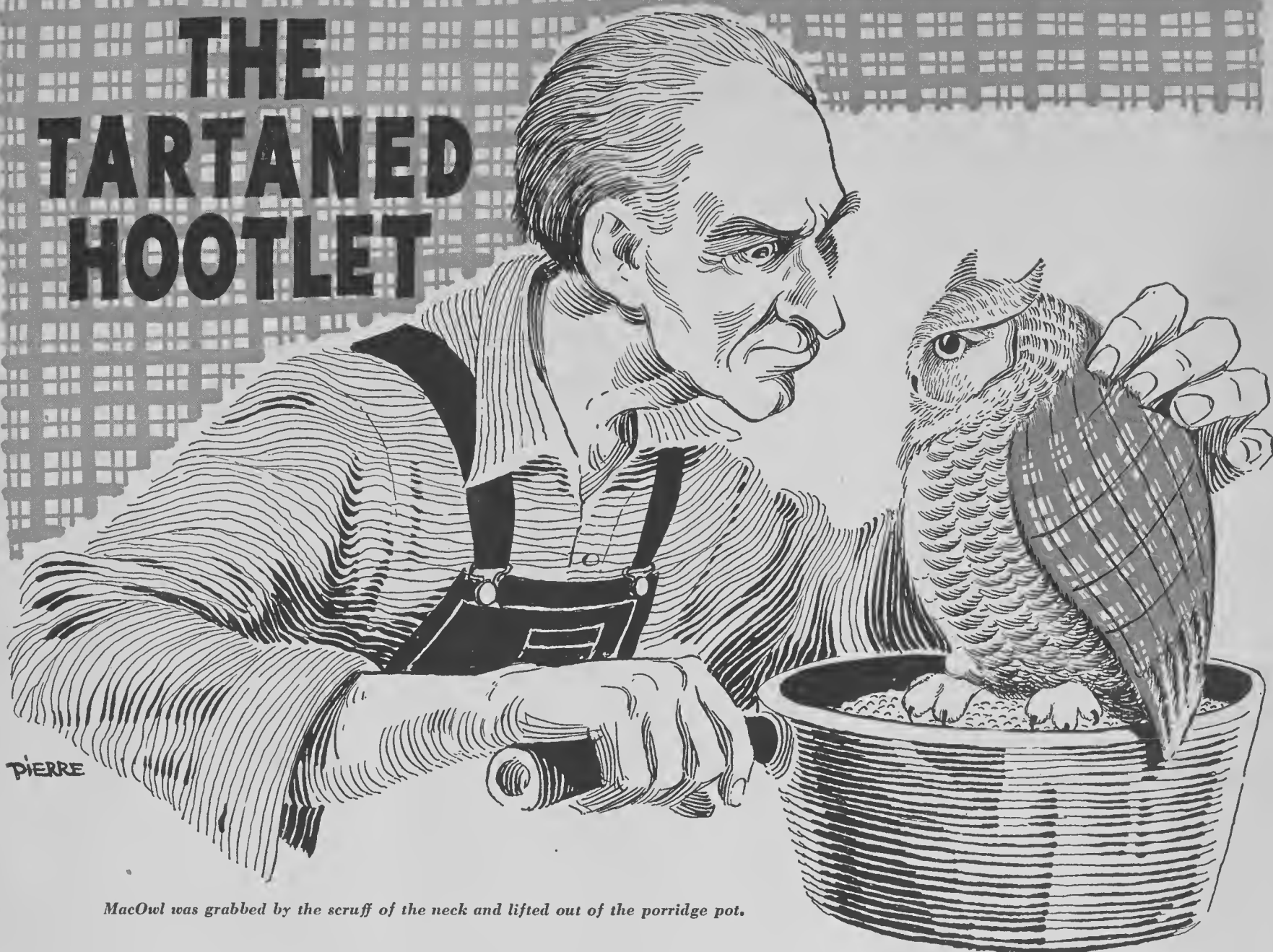
It was explained that balanced farming involved a balance between family living and farming; a balance between land use and land capability (a soil productivity balance); a balance, on livestock farms, between permanent pasture crops to provide uniform grazing throughout the season; a balance between pasture supply and livestock carried; a balance between crops and livestock on one hand, and labor, machinery and buildings on the other; and finally, a bigger bank balance through which the family could enjoy more of life.

THE group of Manitoba farmers decided that they, too, must develop some type of association to service their needs with respect to problems of their farm business. During 1955, a number of meetings were held within the Carman district looking toward the development of a farm management service. Fourteen farmers agreed to pay \$50 each toward the cost of developing such a service. However, 14 farmers were not sufficient to start a farm management association.

The farm accounting project was continued until January 1957, when it was finally decided that the time was ripe to go beyond merely keeping farm accounts. At that time the 75 farmers felt that they had a mutual interest in developing a more detailed program to investigate the business side of their operations. This view was also shared by the Department of Agricultural Economics of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba, as well as by several business organizations in the province. The problem was one of deciding what type of program would best serve the purpose. After several discussions the Carman District Farm Business Association was formed.

A research fund was established at the University of Manitoba for the purpose of developing the program in the Carman (Please turn to page 30)

THE TARTANED HOOTLET



MacOwl was grabbed by the scruff of the neck and lifted out of the porridge pot.

THE mother owl was flying over the Smith barnyard when it happened. She had been hunting through the night woods in the sprucey foothills of Alberta at the time, and had caught herself a white-footed mouse, a red-backed vole, plus a fat meadow mouse from Smith's oat-field. She was pleased with her hunt, and was flapping her way back to her nest to sit on her two round eggs when she chanced to take a short cut right over Farmer Smith's barnyard.

The man was homesick that night. Whenever the malady bothered him, he went to a humpy-backed trunk up in the attic and got out the musical instrument given him by his red-headed grandfather. Then the farmer walked up and down the length of his barnyard, playing dear old tunes remembered from his boyhood. And just as the mother owl flew over that night, Roderick Dugal MacTavish Smith burst his bagpipes.

"Hooooo-oooo-eeeeee!" squawked the frightened bird.

The poor owl turned a complete backward flip as the squally shriek of the broken bagpipes blasted into her large and sensitive ears. She lost no time getting away from there. She went straight to her nest and settled herself on it in a nervous flurry. Next moment the mother owl laid an egg.

But it wasn't round and white like the others. Though the mother bird did not realize it, the new egg was shaped exactly like a haggis.

IN due time the three eggs hatched. From the two white ones came a pair of down-covered, hook-beaked owlets of whom the mother was exceedingly proud. But she wasn't just sure how she felt toward the sandy-headed oddity that waggled out of the small haggis. Yet she was a kindly creature, so she pretended not to notice that he was different from the others.

"My dear young ones," she greeted them, "I take pleasure in welcoming you into the great world. You are members of the owl family of birds, and our variety is known as the Great Horned Owl."

"Ku-hoo!" responded two of her fledglings, in the proper owlet way.

"MacOwl," muttered the queer looking young one. "Grrrrreat Horrrrrrmed MacOwl! Hock, it doesna sound juist the way it should, ye ken, but Ah'll mak' the best o' it."

"I beg your pardon?" flustered the mother.

"Dinna mention it, ma dear," said MacOwl. "Whit's for supper?"

She brought them the tenderest morsels of rabbits and pocket gophers and once, as a special treat because they were growing so rapidly, she brought them the neatly dissected body of a skunk she had spied wandering along a forest path. The two normal owlets gobbled down this fare with gusto but MacOwl turned up his reddish beaklet at the assortment and hardly ate a thing.

"Would you care for a frog from the marsh, or perhaps a juicy young muskrat? Or would you like me to make a special effort and catch you a flying squirrel?"

"Och, no!" MacOwl shook his shaggy tufted head. "The mere thocht o' they things mak's me queasey in ma stummick."

"Then what *would* you like?" asked the mother, in desperation.

At the question, a longing came into MacOwl's pawky eyes.

"Weel, noo; Ah'd dearly like a sup o' barley broth, followed by a piece o' musselburgh pie

flanked wi' taties baked in their skins, and mayhap a spoonfu' of mashed neeps."

"What are neeps?" asked the mother.

"Turnips," explained MacOwl.

"And what are turnips, then?"

"Ehhhh, noo! Ah've neverrrr had the chance tae taste them, so Ah canna exactly say whit they are!"

"Oh," murmured the mother. "What else would you like to eat, MacOwl?"

"Mair than onythin' else, Mither-dear, Ah'd like a feed o' purritch."

"Purritch?"

"Aye, purritch! Or, as some wad say, porridge."

"Hm-m-m-m-m-m!" she hm-m-m-m-m-m, sorely puzzled.

"This porridge or purritch— Does it walk or fly?"

Great Horned MacOwl gave her a reproachful look and tossed his share of a Drummond's vole to his sister and brother. Then, he looked dolefully down at his shrunken frame and sighed hungrily.

"Ye shouldna poke fun at purritch, for 'tis no' a jokin' matter. Ah feel sure that purritch wad be the savin' o' me."

"Then I'll go get it for you," she said resolutely, launching out from the nest tree on her broad, soft-napped wings. She flew back and forth across her hunting range searching for a purritch. But since the befuddled bird hadn't the faintest idea as to what she was looking for, she didn't find one, or it, or any.

MacOwl did not thrive. His sister and brother fattened on the rich food so abundantly provided them, and they grew larger every day until finally they looked as big as the mother herself. MacOwl hunched miserably in the background, shrivelled and small. Now and then his stomach rumbled in a grumbling way as he nibbled on the ears of a least shrew or sampled a fragrant of sora rail to keep from starving to death.

(Please turn to page 38)

by KERRY WOOD



Tobacco grower, J. Barremen, baling some of his 100-acre crop. He heaved a sigh of relief when the board brought in the auction method of sales.

Year of Crisis For Marketing Boards

With marketing the most contentious issue in agriculture, three of Ontario's most important plans have met determined opposition. The farmers themselves hold the key to the future of marketing boards. Will they support them?

by **DON BARON**

THE year 1958 promises to be one of momentous decision for Ontario farmers, and as they make their choice, the anxious eyes of farmers and farm leaders across Canada will be fixed upon them.

The marketing board idea, which has become one of the most contentious in farming today, is on trial in the province as never before. Many farm leaders throughout the country see such boards as the only means within their grasp to bolster farm bargaining power in the market place, and thereby, increase farm incomes and pull the industry up to an equal economic level with other groups in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture has strongly endorsed the idea. It welcomed as a major victory the new marketing legislation brought down a year ago by Federal and provincial governments for the purpose of plugging loopholes in earlier legislation. These had been pinpointed by the Supreme Court of Canada following the reference made to it by the Ontario Government.

Armed with the new powers of the revised legislation, farm groups in Ontario moved quickly to strengthen their marketing board programs and to start new boards as well. The board marketing program seemed to be in the clear.

Then, farm groups suddenly discovered that legislation alone is not enough to make marketing schemes work.

WHEN the hog and peach boards moved to tighten their control over their industries, as provided by legislation, they ran headlong into a volley of totally unexpected opposition. When a group of tobacco growers attempted to set up a marketing board for their crop, they aroused a storm of protest such as has been rarely seen in rural areas of the province.

It soon became apparent that each of these important schemes was in trouble.

Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. W. A. Goodfellow, ordered that votes be taken among hog and peach producers. Despite petitions asking for a repeal of the tobacco scheme, he insisted that it be given an opportunity to prove its worth this winter.

If Ontario's farmers affirm their confidence in these boards, they will provide impressive stimulus for the development of such boards for other crops in the province, and for similar activities in other provinces as well. If growers renounce them, it will be a bitter blow to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and many of its member bodies, representing most of organized agriculture across the country.

That the issue is almost all-engrossing in Ontario is beyond doubt.

The government's farm marketing legislation looms so large in Ontario that Mr. Goodfellow admits he is devoting most of his time now to problems arising from it.

He has voiced his whole-hearted approval of the marketing board principle and has given farmers virtually the kind of legislation they requested. Despite the power that it places in their hands, he professes supreme confidence that they will not abuse it.

Premier Leslie Frost, too, has called on farmers to back their boards, saying:

"Farm marketing has been one of the basic problems of Canadian agriculture for the past 35 years. The Government has won for farmers, by constitutional interpretation, the right to orderly marketing which other people denied they had.

"Organization on the part of the farmer is just as necessary as organization of labor."

Mr. Goodfellow made it clear, when calling for votes on the troubled schemes, that if producers will express their support, his government will give them its fullest backing. He cautioned, however, that without the support of producers themselves, no scheme could prove effective.

ALTHOUGH these boards are under fire in a manner hardly known before, the one strange fact is that marketing boards do not represent a new development. They have a history that goes back more than twenty years.

Marketing legislation is said to have originated in Australia. The suggestions which were put forward in Canada in earlier days were influenced greatly by the British marketing legislation of 1931 and 1933.

The Natural Products Marketing Act (Canada), 1934, laid the groundwork for the kind of legislation which is now in effect in this country, although the intervening years have been ones of modification and change for such legislation.

In Ontario, the board idea has won its greatest success with regional crops grown in the wealthier farming areas. Crops like vegetables, soybeans, seed corn, sugar beets, tomatoes, and canning peaches have been sold under marketing boards for years.

These boards have become so much a part of the cash-crop economy of western Ontario that many farmers follow a deliberate program of growing some marketing board crops, to take advantage of their price stability, and some open market crops like wheat or livestock.

Most of these boards are of the "negotiating-type," through which minimum prices are negotiated between the growers and the buyers. The buyers are usually processors. Under the system, growers have complete freedom to sell to any buyer of their choice at any time.

The troubled boards in Ontario do not fall into this category, but rather are "agency-type" boards in which the growers' own organization takes legal control of the products. Such boards, in effect, take the selling alternative out of the hands of the individual growers.



At Tillsonburg warehouse, constructed by newly established tobacco marketing board, Al George (l.) grades each bale, and M. Nowell applies ticket.



General manager of the tobacco board, F. Stinson, and resident manager, C. Heath, start the first auction sale. Dutch clock is seen in the background.

The sweeping powers given to the "agency-type" boards seem to be a source of irritation, both to the farmers involved, and to the firms and individuals concerned with marketing the crops and livestock.

To grasp some understanding of the situation with respect to each of these contentious boards, it is necessary to look at them individually.

Auction Plan for Tobacco

TOBACCO is rightly called "green gold" by those who grow it, because a good crop might be worth nearly \$1,000 per acre.

Like those who trekked to the Yukon two generations ago, growers succumbing to the lure of this "gold" can find it a hazardous search.

A tobacco grower is likely to be a specialist. He may grow 25 or 50 or 100 acres or more of the crop. His entire livelihood is likely to be tied up with it.

Over three thousand growers are engaged in production of the crop now. They have turned a part of southern Ontario, that was once a wind-blown, soil drifting, sandy waste, into one of the world's important tobacco areas. The crop grown there ranks in size with that of Rhodesia, and is surpassed only by the huge annual production of the rich American tobacco fields.

While Canadian growers can look back on a glittering history, the significant development of the past few years has been the increasing pressure on some growers from the cost-price squeeze. Profits can turn to losses with startling suddenness, under the high-cost structure of tobacco-growing.

However, the tobacco industry differs from most other farm industries in that in Canada, as well as in other countries, production is controlled so that surpluses will not be created to depress prices. Thus, growers had to search elsewhere for the cause of their troubles.

UNTIL a few months ago, the old Flue-cured Tobacco Marketing Association held an uneasy rein over the growers, apportioning out to them "rights" to grow a specified number of acres. The board of directors of the association consisted of both grower and buyer representatives, and it was this board which agreed on minimum prices for the crop from year to year.

Only six or seven firms actually bought the crop, and their representatives, sitting in the same association with the growers, aroused resentment, and seemed in the eyes of growers to virtually control the entire industry.

Then, in 1956, the association was investigated by the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission of the Canada Department of Justice.

In these hearings, it became evident that fear was indeed a common emotion among growers in their dealings with the association and the buying companies.

One witness testified that many growers, like himself, were afraid of the consequences of opposing the association, because the buyers held full power over their crops. Growers suspected that the buyers had "gentlemen's agreements," so that they would not have to bid against one another. They believed that com-

panies showed favoritism, paying some growers well, and grossly underpaying others.

The investigating committee report stated: "Fear for his welfare plays an important part insofar as the relationship of these growers to the association is concerned."

THAT report, and the enactment of new marketing legislation, was the signal for farm leaders to launch a determined fight to oust the association.

Three of the farmer directors fled the board of the old association, and took the lead in campaigning for a vote to set up a marketing board under the new legislation.

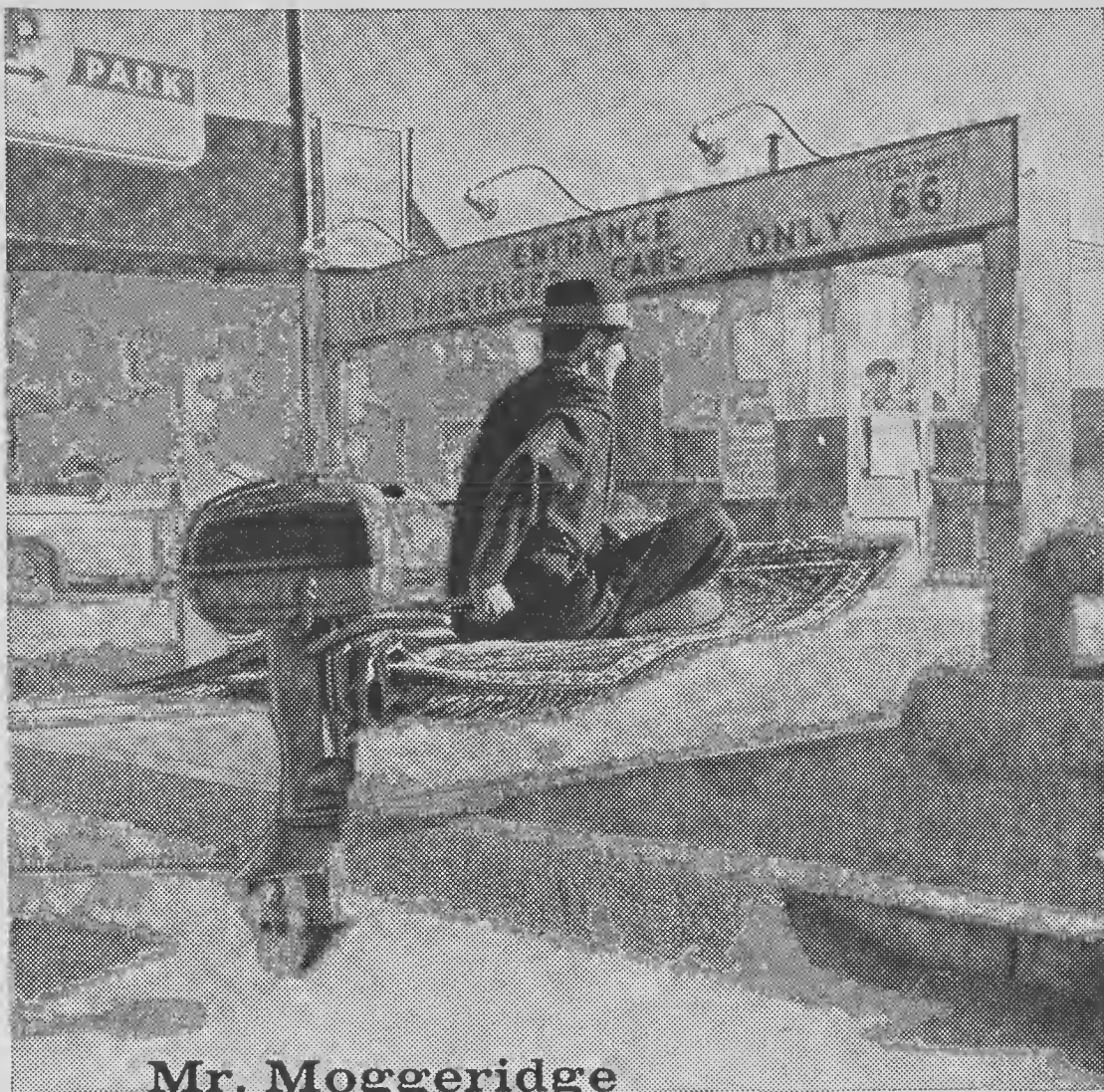
The vote was called by the provincial government for April 1, 1957. Battle lines were formed. The old association under its president (who was one of the largest growers in the area, and an acknowledged shareholder in the major tobacco processing company) threw its assets into the fight against the new scheme. The tobacco companies in the area also opposed the new departure.

The meetings called to discuss the new plan were heated and disorderly. Accusations and profanity were commonplace at some. Fist fights broke out between the quarrelling factions. At the last minute the minister of agriculture postponed the vote on the grounds that the opponents of the

scheme were passing out erroneous information.

The vote was finally held on May 21. Growers flocked to the polls to decide the issue which had aroused the entire district to fever pitch. When it was over, they had decided by a majority of more than two to one, in favor of a new marketing scheme.

It was a great victory for the growers, because it meant that an auction system of selling tobacco on a graded basis would come into effect. Under the system, buyers would not know the identity of the growers whose tobacco they purchased, and hence the new scheme took growers,



Mr. Moggeridge

makes do rather than lay out a large sum of

money for an automobile, Mr. Moggeridge decided to make do with a

flying carpet. It's not the more popular magic kind, hence the

outboard motor. Of course, you may consider his method of saving money

somewhat extraordinary. If you do but would still like to

save money, open a Savings Account at Imperial Bank

of Canada, and deposit

regularly, every pay day.

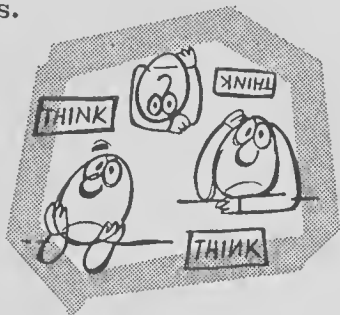
IMPERIAL

the BANK that service built

people compete in the oil business



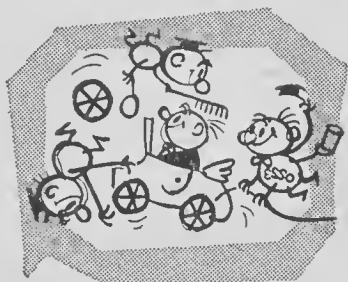
Did you know there are more than 10,000 people engaged in the search for oil in Canada? We know it, because we run into plenty of them each time we try to lease promising oil lands.



Did you know there are hundreds of skilled chemists and engineers in Canada's 42 refineries? We know it, because our own technical people have to work hard to stay ahead of the others in producing better products at lower cost.



Did you know Canada's oil companies employ thousands of salesmen to market their products? We know it, because every day our own sales people are competing with salesmen from other companies.



Canada's hundreds of oil companies wage vigorous competition. The result is increased efficiency, and benefits to the consumer.

IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED



for the first time, out from under the yoke of fear.

THE Ontario Flue-cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board was set up, and the directors, elected by growers in each of the districts, chose Jesse Gray of Tillsonburg as president.

Even then, the opposition was not quelled completely. One of the biggest growers in the district, F. K. Ashbaugh of Turkey Point, led opponents by establishing the Tobacco Growers' Protective Committee. This group canvassed for support, and soon claimed to have signed up growers who controlled nearly half the entire crop. The group petitioned the minister of agriculture to have themselves exempted from the scheme, but were

quickly refused on the grounds that the original vote had been a fair and accurate expression of the farmers' will.

Meanwhile, the board hired as its manager, Dr. Ford Stinson, who was known to district growers through his work at the Delhi Tobacco Experimental Station, and who had gained an insight into the overall tobacco business in his years of directing a tobacco research program in Rhodesia. Charles Heath, who had made a name for himself managing the Ontario Cheese Producers' Marketing Board (a board which had pioneered a selling system using the Dutch auction clock), was appointed resident manager and secretary.

(Please turn to page 32)



Rural Route Letter

Hi Folks:

This is the time of year when anybody who wants to live long enough to enjoy their Old Age Pension had best stay clear of me. Sara and the kids know that, the dog knows it—even the cows know it. They're so quiet and dignified when I herd them into the milking parlor—the cows I mean—you'd think whole milk was bringing \$20 a hundred. Yes sir, you guessed it—it's income tax time!

In a good year, it's hard enough having to part with the money without having to go through all the torture of making out those forms to prove that's all you DID make. Then along comes a bad year, when there isn't much income to come in, and you have that so-and-so form staring you in the face to remind you what a dunce you were to go farming in the first place. You just can't win when it comes to income tax. But, as I've tried to explain to Ted Corbett, you can sure make things a little less painful by putting all your business deals in black and white in a farm account book.

"I can't see where that makes things any easier," he told me, shaking his head, "and look at all the time you waste in a year just writing everything down. You can spend your evenings bookkeeping if you like, but I'm going to stick with my own system."

"I didn't know you had a system," I said sarcastically.

"Jealousy will get you nowhere," he retorted. "You know very well I've got a system—the same one I always had."

"You don't mean the two Jap orange boxes?"

"Sure I mean those Jap orange boxes," he said. "One for receipts I

get for the things I buy, and another for the credit slips for the things I sell. That means I have other people to do my bookkeeping. When income tax time comes along, I dump 'em on the table and make out my forms. What could be simpler than that?"

He got kinda sore when I started to smile. He knew I was recalling the time he had them all out on the kitchen table one day when I paid him a visit. It was blowing something fierce that day, and when his wife opened the door, those things flew all over the place. Some even landed in a pot of stew she had sitting on the stove.

"It's much better to write 'er down," was all I said. "Half the time a man forgets to get receipts for little things, but at the end of a year they add up to quite a pile of money. You end by paying more tax than you need to."

"And it's not just for income tax," I added. "Proper records show a fella at a glance what parts of his farm are making money, or where he's losing it. That way you can plan improvements. In other words, you've got a record of how you're doing. It comes in handy to show the bank too, if you ever have to borrow money."

Ted isn't one to commit himself when it comes to making a change. But he didn't put up much of an argument after that, so I figure some of what I said took root. Especially the part about him probably paying more than he needs to. The idea that he might be sending a bit of a bonus to those fellas in Ottawa didn't go down too well with Ted Corbett.

Yours,

PETE WILLIAMS.



The distinctive horns of the Ayrshire may be on the way out. Herefords, like the one on the right, can do a lot of damage in pens and stockyards.



Guide photos

It Pays To Dehorn Early

WHETHER the horns go up or down, it pays to dehorn. There was a time when you could spot an Ayrshire a mile away by its handsome, up-curving horns. But those days are almost gone, according to Joe Gordon of Goodlands, Man. The Ayrshire stands an equal chance in the showring, with or without horns, and the breed usually sells better without horns. Ayrshires are gentle and well-behaved, but those horns can be a menace. Joe Gordon dehorns most of his.

In spite of the fact that most beef-producing provinces impose a \$2 penalty per head on horned commercial cattle, large numbers continue to arrive at market with horns. They are the cause of severe bruising to other cattle in pens and stockyards. On the other hand, the Horned Cattle Purchase Act imposes no penalty on purebred breeders who can produce pedigree papers for the cattle they bring to market.

Hog Disease Has Been Increasing

ATROPHIC rhinitis has been spreading among Canadian hogs in recent years, and if it continues to spread, it could make the supply of clean stock a serious problem. This is the nose disease which interferes with the growth of hogs, and there is no easy way to deal with it.

Dr. R. Gwatkin, who is with the Health of Animals Division of the Canada Department of Agriculture, gives the following description of rhinitis. The early symptoms are like those of the common cold—a watery substance is discharged from the eyes and nose—and frequently there are black patches under the eyes, caused by dust collecting in the overflow of tears. Later, the nasal discharge becomes thicker and is expelled by sneezing. Hogs rub their snouts vigorously on the ground or any convenient

object. Their breathing becomes difficult, and bleeding from the nose—a sure sign of rhinitis—is sometimes heavy.

Although it does not always occur, the upper jaw may be affected, causing the snout to turn sideways or upwards. This is noticeable at 8 to 10 weeks. If it happens, the hog's incisor teeth cannot come together, and the animal is forced to scoop up its food. However, a turned up snout and projecting lower jaw are not necessarily signs of rhinitis.

Streptomycin and other antibiotics can help in the control of rhinitis, but no satisfactory treatment has yet been developed. The surest way is to slaughter the whole herd, and then to clean and disinfect buildings and equipment, and also renovate and drain the wallows. Restocking from a known clean herd can follow after a month or so.

Inadequate feeding, cold and damp buildings, and poor sanitation all help to increase the severity of rhinitis and

the rate at which it spreads. It is good management to ensure that these conditions do not exist, but it is not necessarily a cure for rhinitis. Severe symptoms of the disease can appear in premises where the conditions appear to be good.

Crossbreeding For Better Lambs

AT the end of the last war there were 4 million sheep in Canada, but very shortly afterward the sheep population dropped to 1.5 million, and a lot of the lambs coming to market were graded as culls. The loss in revenue for farmers was considerable. Since then there has been a renewal of interest in sheep, and some steps have been taken to encourage it.

To improve quality, the Canada Department of Agriculture sent a representative to Scotland in 1949. He bought a small number of sheep there for crossbreeding, and a joint program was set up with the Department of Agriculture in Quebec, where most of the culls had been marketed. A North Country Cheviot flock was set up at Normandin, P.Q., to supply breeding stock for the provincial crossbreeding program. This program is still developing, but there is evidence of satisfactory progress in producing better market lambs. Several selections of rams have also been made for breeders outside of Quebec.

Ram programs are being carried out in other parts of Canada, in some cases on a club basis. In Alberta, for example, a club serving 20 farmers has been supplying Cheviot and Corriedale rams for crossing with Suffolk ewes. Another ram club, using the same breeds, has been marketing crossbred lambs at 4½ months, weighing an average of 95 pounds.

Other schemes include assistance in purchasing sheep given by the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, and the Sire Loan Policy of the Canada Department of Agriculture. It certainly pays the sheepman to enquire into these schemes for the improvement of market lambs.



DR. P. J. OLSON

W. E. Kroeker, President, Manitoba Broadcasting Co. Ltd., announces the appointment of Dr. P. J. Olson, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., as Farm Director of Radio Station CFAM, Altona. Dr. Olson served as Head of the Plant Science Dept., University of Manitoba, for 17 years. Prior to this he was Assistant Dean of Agriculture at North Dakota Agricultural College, and Assistant Director, North Dakota Experiment Station. He is well and favorably known to farmers throughout Manitoba, and the staff of CFAM are proud to have him associated with the station in this position. With this appointment CFAM (Dial 1290) hopes to fill to an even greater degree its function as Manitoba's Farm Station. Assisting Dr. Olson in the farm programming will be Leonard Enns.



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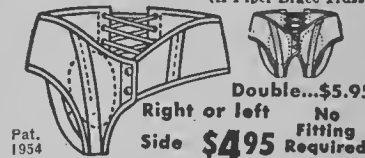
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Second-Floor Calf



IMAGINE Mrs. Isabel Hok's surprise when she glanced up and saw a Hereford calf looking out from the hayloft. It had managed to climb up eight very steep steps, without any previous experience. Husband George went up into the loft with a rope and led the calf down. It became rather crowded on the stairs, but the calf was restored to its family in good shape. These pictures were taken on the Hok farm at Maple Creek, Sask.

LIVESTOCK

Good Gains with Mechanical Grazing

SOME day cowboys might find themselves taking the range to the steers instead of taking the steers to the range. Home on the range will be an accepted fact because the range will be at home.

While conducting rotational grazing tests, the Range Experimental Station, Kamloops, B.C., had a lot of their

pasture destroyed by a flash flood. Because some parts of the pasture were hit worse than others, they removed the animals to a feedlot and took off the grass with a forage harvester, so all the animals would receive the same quality of grass. Gains were so spectacular under mechanical grazing, the station decided to conduct a formal experiment, and find out just how much more gain animals will put on when the grass is hauled to them.

To see if a high energy feed would improve grass-fed cattle, they divided

the 48 test animals (all of them just ordinary range stock) into two groups—one group receiving grass alone, and the other a grass ration reinforced with 4 pounds of molasses per animal per day. Over a feeding period of 137 days, the grass-fed cattle gained an average of 1.99 lb. per day, and those receiving molasses, 2.16 lb. per day. It was found that the extra gain didn't pay for the cost of the molasses, and all 48 animals dressed out at about 56 per cent. There were 25 A, 18 B, and 5 C grade steers.

Winter Ration For the Beef Cow

WINTERING beef cows need an ample feed supply. An abundance of good, bright legume-grass hay is best, but you can make substitutes, using grain and straw to replace part of the hay. Wheat straw has little feed value, and even good oat straw has only half the value of alfalfa, so the difference must be made up with grain, which has twice the energy value of a good mixed hay.

Remember, too, that grass silage is a good feed for beef cows, but two-thirds of it by weight is water. So consider three pounds of good silage as about equal to one pound of good hay.

Dr. Elwood Stringham, head of the animal science department at the University of Manitoba, recommends any one of the following as a suitable daily wintering ration for a dry beef cow in calf and weighing about 1,250 pounds:

- 25 lb. legume-grass hay containing at least 4 lb. legume; or
- 16 lb. legume hay and 9 lb. oat straw; or
- 12 lb. grass hay, 8 lb. oat straw, and 4 lb. grain mixture; or
- 20-24 lb. good native hay and 1 lb. protein supplement.

Lessen the Chances of Shipping Fever Outbreaks

SUDDEN temperature changes, excitement and changes in feed all help to make cattle more susceptible to shipping fever, and a large number of them die of it. The symptoms are a cough and running nose, possibly followed by diarrhea and death. It is very contagious and spreads quickly through a herd which has no immunity to the disease.

The best way to guard against cattle getting shipping fever is to give them two injections of bacterin a week apart, and two to three weeks before shipping. This should give them significant immunity, says Dr. Tom Johnston, provincial veterinarian with the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture.

When shipping cattle, keep trucks well covered, and be sure that the front and sides of the truck box are solid enough to provide shelter from the wind. Handle the cattle quietly when loading them, as well as in transit and when unloading.

Keeping The Herd Healthy

LIVESTOCKMEN will usually get rid of unhealthy animals, but their guard is often down when they buy replacements.

You can minimize this danger by doing three things, according to the Ontario Veterinary College. Firstly, check the health history of the herd you are buying animals from, if you can. Secondly, have the bought animals subjected to a full health examination, including blood tests if they are for the breeding herd. Thirdly, keep new animals quarantined for a few weeks and consult your veterinarian about retests, before allowing them into the home herd.



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Homemade Pipeline Milker



[Guide photo]
Mrs. Van Wageningen demonstrates the action of the electrically powered, stainless steel pump.

ABOUT \$350, and a little ingenuity, gave Florent Van Wageningen a pipeline milking system which will stack up against units that cost four times as much. It consists of three pail-type milking machines (bought second hand), three weighing scales, 30 feet of one-inch clear plastic hose with couplings, a stainless steel pump, and 20 feet of 3/4-inch rubber hose. The ingenuity, of course, can't be bought for any amount. Florent inherited that from his Dutch ancestors.

In the Wageningen's three-stall milking parlor, milk is drawn into the pail-type containers, which are suspended on scales that record each animal's production (he has an R.O.P. herd). A small tap, that has been welded to the bottom of each pail so the latter can be emptied without removing it, is then opened, and the milk flows via gravity through the clear plastic hose to an electric pump, which lifts it to the separator or cooling tank.

To wash out his homemade milker, Florent uncouples each end of the plastic pipe and hooks it to a rubber hose line. This is located above the milking stalls, and can also be connected to the farm water system when needed to rinse out the milk line. When completed, the hook-up makes a complete circuit so that a cleansing solution (consisting of two gallons of water with an added detergent) can be circulated around the milking system by the milk pump.

Van Wageningen, who farms about 10 miles southeast of Vermilion, Alta., in partnership with his son, came to Canada 37 years ago. In an area where a good deal of wheat is grown, he concentrates his acres and energies on growing pasture hay and feed grain for his livestock.

At the present time, the Van Wageningen dairy herd consists of 30 registered Holsteins, about 16 of which are milking. The main product is cream shipped to the Vermilion creamery, but fluid milk is supplied when needed. Skim milk is utilized by three breeding sows, which produce about six litters a year. The farm also supports 40 head of Oxford sheep. These are pastured close to the house because of coyotes, which are bad in that district. As an added deterrent to

these raiders, the Van Wageningens tether a saddle pony with a dummy tied in the saddle on the highest point of the hill.—C.V.F. V

Low Producing Herds Can Be Improved

YOU don't need a high producing dairy herd to benefit from dairy production records. Increasing herd production by selecting the highest producers for breeding stock seems just as good in low producing herds as in high producing ones, according to dairy scientists at the University of Wisconsin.

They analyzed production records for more than 22,000 Holsteins to find the association between the milk and fat production of dams and daughters. In spite of the fact that high, medium and low production herds were tested, the relation between the cow's and daughter's records was about the same in all types of herd. This shows that the chances of improvement by using the best cows for breeding are about as good in low and high producing herds.

Another thing the study showed was that the farmer who is interested in up-grading the type, or appearance, of his herd would need to select breeding cows of the desired type, as well as with high production. On the other hand, it may be possible to build a high producing herd without paying too much attention to the appearance of the cows. This is because the genes which carry their high production potential are not the same genes as those that determine the animal's type. V

Cut Straw Bedding

CUT straw for cattle bedding is a real asset because it has a better absorbing ability than the uncut straw. This is an advantage in itself, but it also makes it so much easier to handle the manure. It is almost a must where gutter cleaners and manure spreaders are used.

While on the subject of straw, make sure that your cattle have plenty of bedding. It protects the cows against udder injuries, and helps cattle to keep clean. V



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SOILS and CROPS

Avoid the Clipping Penalty

CLOSE grazing can make a big difference in the yields and rate of growth of pasture. It was tried with different pasture mixtures at the Lethbridge Experimental Farm, Alta., using clippers to simulate grazing, and the height of the plants was measured each day, with comparisons between 11 different treatments.

Results showed that higher yields were obtained when grasses were allowed to reach a height of at least 8 inches before clipping, and at least 3 inches of stubble was maintained. Plants cut down to 1½ inches took longer to make 1 inch of new growth

than those cut only to 3 or 5 inches. Clovers were abundant when given the 8 to 3 inches and 10 to 3 inches treatment, but were completely crowded out of the 12 to 5 inches treatment. When kept in the range of 4 to 1½ inches, clovers suffered and their yield was not improved.

Brome and creeping red fescue recovered more slowly than orchard grass when clipped from 6 or 10 inches down to 1½ inches. But when all three were clipped from 10 inches down to 3 or 5 inches, there was little difference in their rates of recovery. In a comparison between fescue and a mixture of all three, there was rapid recovery as stubble height increased from 1½ to 3 inches. Regrowth of brome was more rapid with each increase of stubble height up to 5 inches.

The rule seems to be that good pasture management means grazing at around 10 inches, and leaving 3 inches or more of stubble. This in turn means that rotational grazing is necessary.

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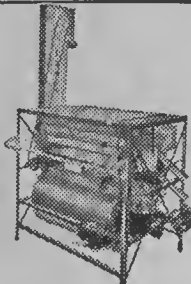
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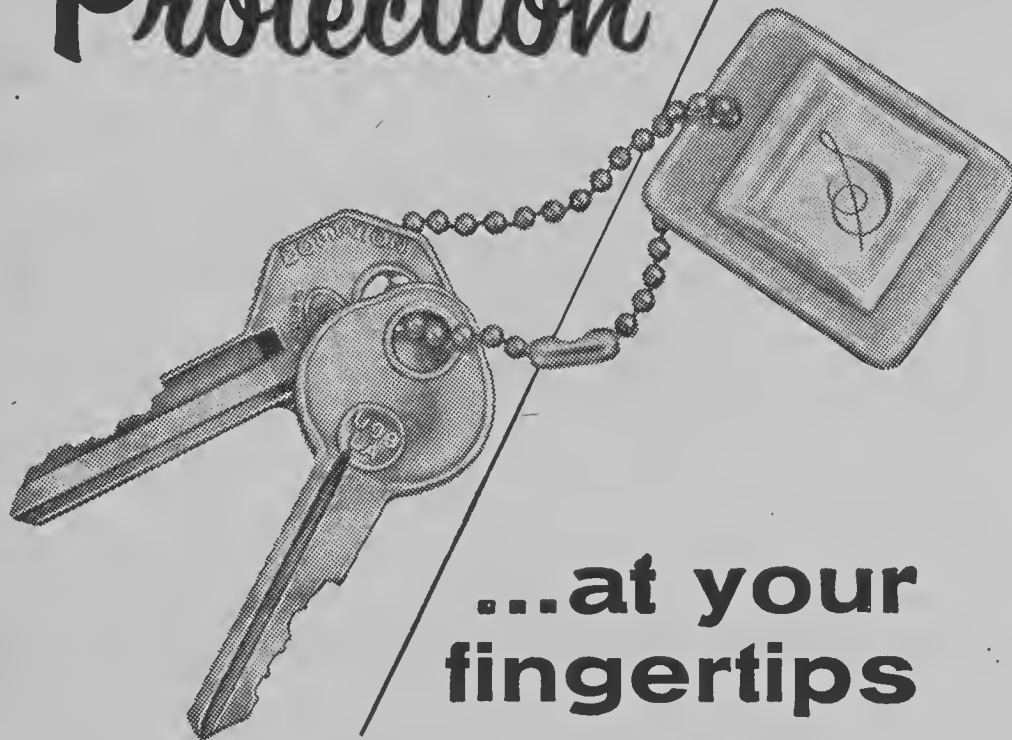
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Forage Crops On Droughty Land

ON well-drained and droughty soils, a good time to sow the grass part of hay and pasture mixtures is in September, or the first half of October. The earlier the better, provided there is enough moisture for germination and growth. The legume part of the mixture should be broadcast over the grasses on frozen ground around February 15.

These recommendations come from R. H. Turley of the Saanichton Experimental Farm, B.C. He says that the grass should be sown on a firm, fine seedbed, and the legumes when the ground is well frosted and honey-combed.

However, these practices do not apply to soils which hold the moisture better, and areas where the summer rainfall is higher. Here the entire forage crop should be sown at one time in the spring.

New Durum Compared with Others

THE new Ramsey durum variety, developed in North Dakota and licensed in Canada last year, has been under test at various locations by the Lethbridge Experimental Farm during the past three summers. Compared to Stewart and Mindum, the Ramsey variety showed little difference as far as yield was concerned last year, but previously at Lethbridge they found that Stewart showed a slight yield advantage over Ramsey.

Ramsey has slightly superior lodging resistance compared with Stewart and Mindum, because it has shorter straw and the head stands erect. There has been no significant difference in days to maturity. Quality has been satisfactory in all three cases.

Ramsey has the advantage of resistance to stem rust, which is of no practical significance in the durum areas of Alberta, but is important in Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. Its real claim to superiority over Stewart in the Lethbridge area lies in its erect habit and slightly stronger straw.

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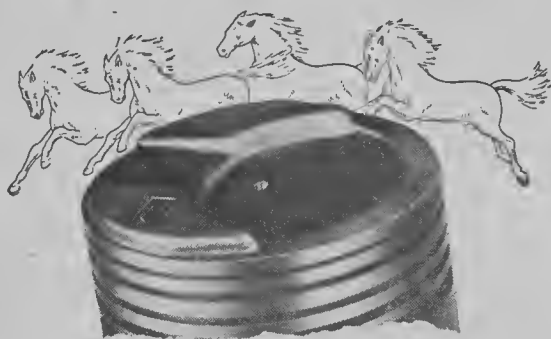
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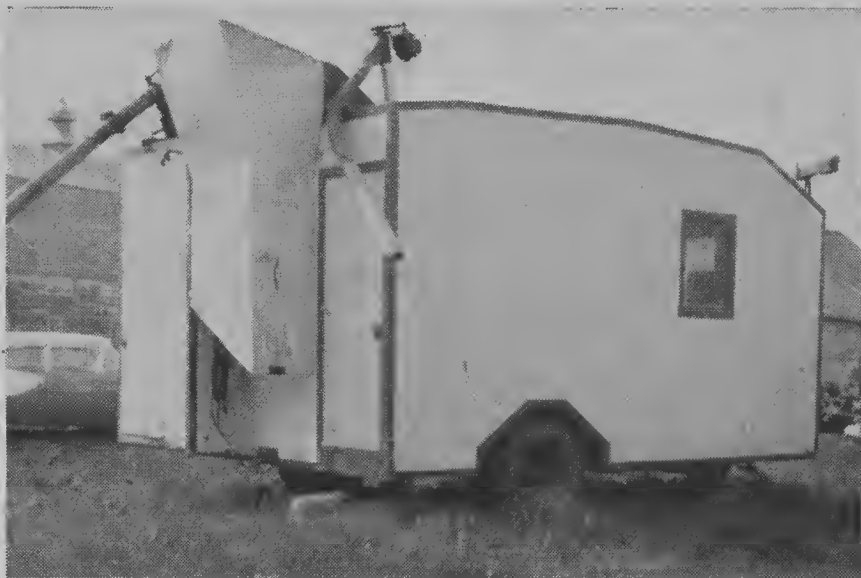
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SOILS AND CROPS

Brothers Built Own Seed Cleaning Plant



The six-ton mobile seed cleaning plant was built by the Renwick brothers. [Guide photo]

WHEN Jim and Ken Renwick planned to build a mobile seed cleaning plant in 1954, they reckoned they could do it for \$3,000. By the time it was completed it had cost \$12,000, including labor, but they have no regrets.

The plant, which is built into a trailer, is powered by a Ford industrial engine. This also drives three electric motors for augers, and supplies the lighting for interior and night work. Apart from this power unit and a Carter disc, the whole plant was home-made.

It features a unique 25-bushel hopper, which is spring-mounted to control the flow of grain from the bin. A shaft, mounted on the hopper, drives the auger from the bin through a flexible shaft. As the hopper is filled, its weight overcomes the spring tension, lowering the hopper and loosening a V-belt. This cuts off the power to the auger and stops the flow of grain from the bin. To elevate grain from the corners of the bin, there is an auxiliary auger.

—After the grain enters the hopper, it is elevated into a piano-wire cylinder, passes through a 54-inch fanning mill, and then by gravity into the Carter disc. Dust, chaff and light materials are removed by fan, while screenings pass through an auger elevator to a truck outside. The cleaned grain is removed from the disc by auger, entering another auger which is swivel-mounted and delivers the grain to a bin.

The capacity of this plant is 150 bushels of wheat an hour. Working practically all year round they can clean 210,000 bushels of seed, mostly wheat, and some barley and oats. They serve 230 customers within 30 miles of their farm at Corinne, Sask., using a truck to haul the six-ton plant when conditions are dry, and a tractor in winter. There is no shortage of customers, owing to a difficult weed situation in the Weyburn district.

In addition to the plant, the brothers can provide a portable bin, which they position alongside the cleaner when the farmer doesn't have an

empty bin. Ingenuity and sound engineering have accounted for Jim and Ken Renwick's success. V

Life and Death Of the Corn Borer

BECAUSE it's an advantage to know your enemy, here's how the European corn borer goes to work. The female moth lays eggs on the underside of the corn leaves, and after these hatch, the young borers feed on the leaves for about five days. Then they move to the heart, or whorl of the plant, and feed there until they are about half-grown. Later, many of them will bore into the stalk.

This is important. It is only when the larvae (or young borers) are feeding on the leaf surface or in the whorl that you can destroy this menace with insecticides.

Here is the way to plan your attack, according to H. B. Wressell of the Entomology Laboratory at Chatham, Ont. Get enough granulated DDT to apply three-quarters, to one pound of active ingredient per acre, and be sure that the granules are in the 30/60 mesh range. Use the hopper-type or blower-type applicator. The hopper type allows the granules to feed down into the whorl of the plant by gravity, and can be mounted on a detasseling machine or pulled by a tractor, depending on the model. The blower type is more like a duster and operates off the tractor power take-off. Whichever you use, be sure to leave at least 48 inches clearance.

Watch the corn plants closely in early July, which is the time when the eggs are laid and leaf feeding begins. Examine 100 plants, especially the undersides of leaves, every third day. If you find eggs, wait until 70 per cent of the plants show signs of leaf feeding, and make sure you are ready to go into action when that time comes. One treatment is enough if you do it before the tassels show in the whorls. V

HORTICULTURE

New Crops For P.E. Island

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, long a fishing and farming province, is showing new interest in fruit and vegetable cash crops. Modest freezing facilities on the Island promise to be greatly expanded.

Horticulturist G. C. Warren at the Charlottetown Experimental Farm says that there is no doubt that peas and beans can be grown for freezing, or canning, on the rich island soil. He notes that farmers now ship the cucumbers from 600 acres all the way to Guelph, Ontario, for pickling. A start has been made on asparagus, too, while about 300 acres of dried beans are grown for a firm in New Brunswick.

Also, the Experimental Farm has shown that spinach, corn, cauliflower, and carrots can be grown successfully by Island farmers.

The crops provide farmers with income supplementary to that secured from the potato crop, which, while formerly their old standby, has been too temperamental pricewise during the past few years to remain the sole cash crop.

Dual-Purpose Tomato Looks Good

TOMATO growers in Nova Scotia have been looking for several years for a variety which would be suitable both for the fresh fruit and processing markets. The new variety called Scotia appears to be it. This was developed at the Kentville Experimental Farm.

Scotia bears smooth fruit of moderate size, with solid, deep red flesh and excellent flavor. When picked either in the mature-green or pink stage, it is green shouldered and ships well. If allowed to ripen on the vine, it yields large crops of firm fruit with a good texture, flavor and color for canning. The chief disadvantage for processing is its rather deep core, but this is not considered to be serious.

A semi-commercial trial was made in 1957, with the co-operation of an Annapolis Valley processing company. Plants were set during the first week in June, and two harvests were made on September 18 and 25, with a total yield of usable ripe fruit averaging 10.7 tons per acre. More fruit ripened on the vines after that, but these yields were not included, because tomato harvests are uncertain after September 25. The cannery got a recovery of 24 twenty-ounce cans per bushel (45 pounds) of fruit harvested. All the canned fruit graded "Choice."

Plastic Water Pond

CASH crop farmers in Ontario are turning fast to irrigation, because it provides valuable insurance for crops like tobacco, which are worth several hundred dollars per acre, and even in normal seasons, can increase growth substantially.

In fact, half the tobacco growers in Ontario are equipped with water-spreading equipment and now the problem facing many of them is to provide adequate storage to meet periods of drought. Where the crop is grown on light sand, as in Norfolk County, water storage is a problem, but the Experimental Station at Delhi hopes that its plastic pond will provide an answer to this.

The water table at the Delhi Station is 18 feet below the surface, so a 20-foot dug pond would hold only two feet of water. Officer-in-Charge L. S. Vickery persuaded the Big Creek Conservation Authority to provide him with a pond 140 by 80 by 10 feet. He had a gigantic plastic liner made for it, fitted it into place in 1956, and found that he could pump 135 gallons per minute into it from three nearby, joined, shallow wells. The pond held 275,000 gallons of water and while he pumped 300 gallons per minute when irrigating, the pond could be re-filled at night, so its capacity was adequate.

Last spring, the plastic was still in good shape. Mr. Vickery hopes that before long, he will know enough about plastic-lined ponds that he can advise farmers how to make linings smaller than the one he is using, to provide them with economical water storage.



[Guide photo

This water pond, with a gigantic plastic liner, will hold 275,000 gallons of water. It is still experimental, but considered likely to be suited to farm use.

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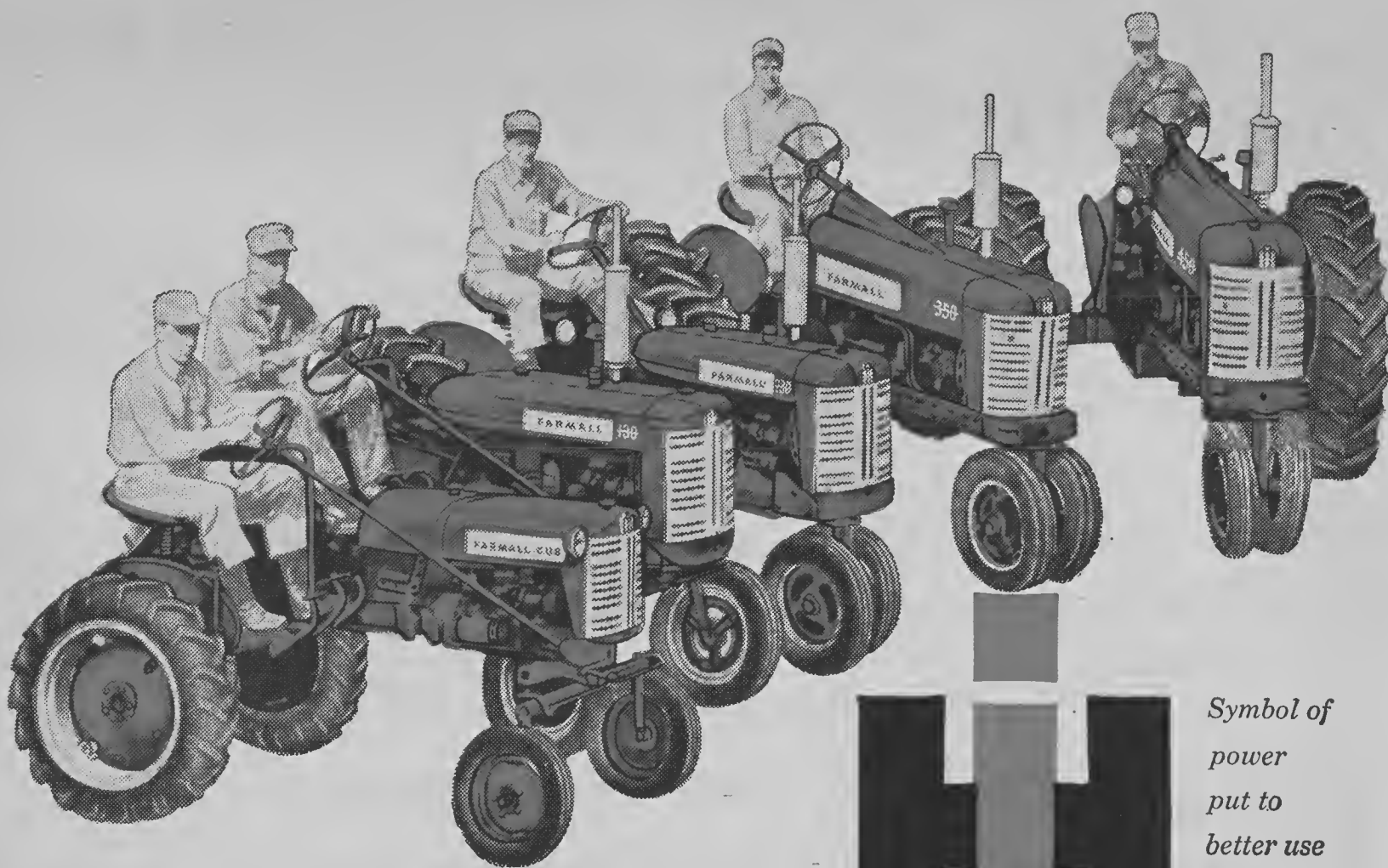
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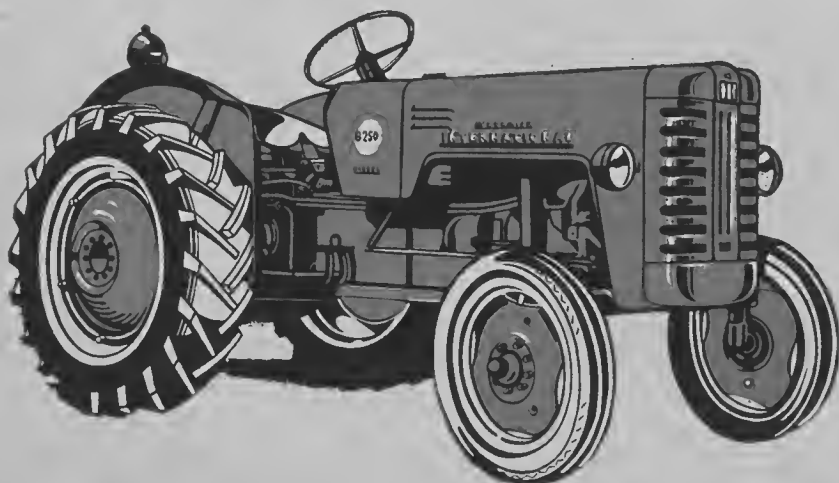
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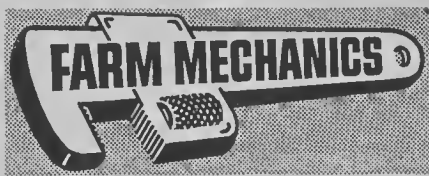
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Farm machines take over another chore

Mechanization In Turnip Harvesting

A MACHINE that enables 2 men to do the work of 13 is news in any business. That's what a new piece of equipment designed in Ontario can do for turnip harvesting. It has come at an opportune time, because the high cost of labor required by this largely unmechanized crop

has been forcing some growers out of the business.

Prof. E. G. Webb, of the Ontario Agricultural College, set to work with a couple of local machine makers to develop this low-cost turnip harvester. A few models of a sugar beet harvester, which had proved inadequate

for their intended crop, came up for sale at bargain prices at that time. They adapted these to handle turnips with some success. Then new machines were developed by Emmanuel Reist, who has a machine shop on his Elmira farm, and by Alvin Martin at Conestoga. These have been built and attached to the tractor for less than \$1,000.

Most of the harvesting machines require that the turnips be topped by hand, which can be done by one man with a hoe. Then the front discs roll earth and waste away from the rows, while revolving rubber beaters flail off the tops and any weeds that lie over them. A special knife cuts off and lifts the roots, and the turnip is rolled up a chain elevator and dumped into a truck or wagon behind. One man runs the harvester and another the truck during harvesting.

Emmanuel Reist has now developed a self-propelled model, which has attracted the attention of another prominent turnip grower, Ezra Brubacher of Elmira. He grows 28 acres of them as a cash crop, which he sells to neighbors as cattle feed.—D.R.B. ✓



(O.A.C., Guelph, photo)

A close-up of the new turnip harvester mounted on a tractor in Ontario.

POULTRY

Feathers Used In Poultry Feeds

WITH feathers an abundant by-product of the fast-growing poultry business, nutritionists have been looking for some practical use for them, and have demonstrated already that processed feather meal, which is high in protein, can be used partly to replace scarce and expensive animal proteins in poultry feeds.

One Canadian feed firm has fed groups of broiler chickens some experimental rations with a critical protein level of 16 per cent. Another group getting a ration in which one-quarter of the total protein content was provided in the form of hydrolyzed feather meal did just about as well as the group fed the normal protein ration.

That company is using feather meal in some of its feeds now, and it is reported that other firms also plan to begin its use.

Nutritionists, meanwhile, are working with other proteins from the keratin found in hair, hooves, and horns, as well as feathers, to find processing methods that will make them suitable for use in feeds too.—D.R.B. ✓

Make a Date With the Packing Plant

THE sooner poultry are processed after being delivered to the packing plant, the better the price. But it happens that at certain times of the year, there is a sudden rush of deliveries from farms.

The way to avoid this is to check with your eviscerating plant several days or even weeks before your birds are ready. Even better, you may be able to take a sample bird to the plant to see whether your poultry are ready for shipment. Giving this advance notice enables the packing plant to plan a steady flow of birds, which they are able to handle without delays. ✓

Quick Freezing Makes Them Tougher

MODERN, high-speed methods of dressing turkeys and other fowl, and the development of deep-freeze storage, have led to complaints of toughness when they reach the table. The National Research Council took up the problem, and produced the following results.

They split freshly dressed birds in halves, freezing one set of halves immediately at 40 degrees below zero for one to three weeks. The other halves were chilled in ice water for an hour immediately after dressing, and then were held in air tempera-

tures of 40 degrees above for 24 hours before freezing for one to three weeks.

After storage, the paired halves of birds were thawed after varying periods and were cooked at 325 degrees. A panel of 18 people tasted them and the results showed that tenderness increased when birds were held at 40 degrees above for 24 hours before freezing. Freezing halted the tenderizing action. There was some increase in tenderness when birds were thawed for three to six hours before cooking. ✓

Parasites Cost You Money

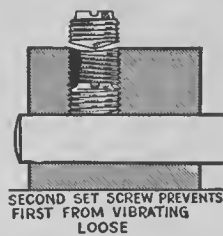
WHILE infectious diseases strike poultry flocks quickly and take a heavy toll, a reminder comes from the Ontario Veterinary College that losses caused by parasites may be less spectacular, but can be severe over the period of a year.

There are many new drugs and treatments for the control of parasites, which have reduced losses over the last few years, but parasites are still a big problem in many flocks. Their control is a major factor in profitable poultry production.

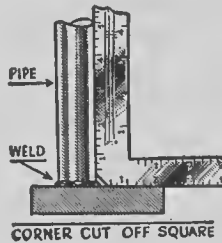
OVC recommends that where diseases or parasites are suspected, there should be early and accurate diagnosis, followed by the correct treatment and control measures. This may sound obvious, but a lot of money has been lost by flock owners who ignore it. ✓



Locking a Screw. On some parts of farm machinery, a setscrew will often and persistently loosen at some vital point. This can be stopped by using two setscrews. One is run down against the part it is to hold, and the other is run down on top of it to lock the first screw. This invariably keeps both screws locked tight.—S.C., Fla. ✓



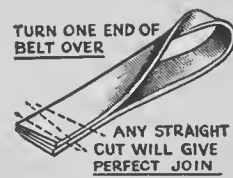
Plumb welding. When you are doing some welding or tacking, and you want to be sure that the job is plumb, as in the case of the pipe shown in the illustration, you will find that a square with the corner cut off is handy and saves time. Instead of using a ruler to check the position of the pipe, this device will fit flush against the pipe and give you the two sides of your square. The cut-out enables the square to clear the area of the weld, while giving you the right angle.—M.M.E., Alta. ✓



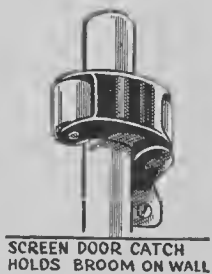
Water pump filter. Certain types of water pump are clogged by particles of wood or other foreign matter, forcing you to dismantle the pump and clean it out. To remedy this, simply wire a piece of ordinary window screening over the intake, and you reduce this risk of clogging and possible damage.—S.S.B., Sask. ✓



Cutting a belt. The old method is to use a square, and to make the cut absolutely square with the sides of the belt, but here is a way to do it, which does not require a square cut, but simply a straight one. Give the belt one twist, as shown, and lay the ends one exactly over the other. Then, by making a straight cut, even though not square with the sides, the ends will fit perfectly. The cut may make various angles, but it saves belting material if the cut is made as square as possible. —W.F.S., N.J. ✓

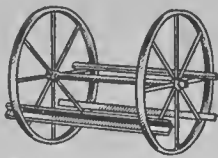


Broom holder. Brooms are awkward things to store. If you want to keep one out of people's way, and also find it when you want it, it's easy to make a holder. All you need is a screen door catch, which you fasten to the wall, instead of to the door frame. This catch not only holds your broom handle securely, but opens and shuts



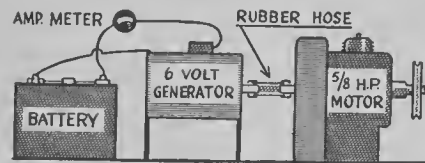
to let you remove or replace the broom.—D.A.W., Man. ✓

Storing iron. Here is a handy, self-serve rack for keeping iron pipe, etc., off the ground, where it would rust or get lost. Place two old drill or rake wheels at a suitable distance apart (depending on the lengths of iron you want to store), and pass an iron pipe or bar through them as an axle. Then store your strap iron, angle iron, steel pegs, pipes, and so on, by resting them on the spokes. You can select the iron you need at a glance, and it keeps the workshop tidy.—T.R., Alta. ✓



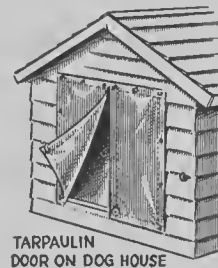
USE WHEELS TO STORE PIPE, ETC.

Battery charger. You can charge your farm batteries by using this simple equipment. I find it works perfectly. The installation includes a 5/8



h.p. motor connected to a 6-volt generator with a piece of rubber hose. You then hitch the battery up to the generator, including an amp. meter in the circuit.—E.B., Sask. ✓

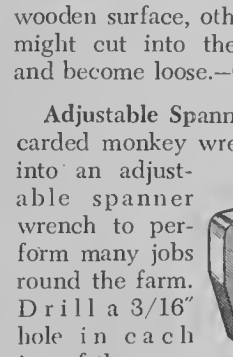
Dog house door. Here is a sketch of my dog's house. As we keep him outside, I made this door curtain from heavy tarpaulin, using the reinforced corners. The tarpaulin is easily secured to the dog house through the eye holes, and it can be held open by two hooks screwed on either side of the door. This is useful in warm weather. The dog can get in and out without snagging his chain.—W.F., N.Y. ✓



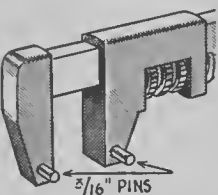
TARPAULIN DOOR ON DOG HOUSE

Storing seed drill. While your seed drill is waiting for the spring, clean all grain out of the cups, and place a rag well saturated with oil in each cup. This will keep it well oiled and free from rust.—I.N.K., Sask. ✓

Tight household knobs. Drawer knobs, and those on pan and pot lids can be kept tight by using a small lock washer to prevent the knob screw from turning. Use a flat washer against a wooden surface, otherwise the washer might cut into the wooden surface and become loose.—G.M.E., Alta. ✓



Adjustable Spanner Wrench. A discarded monkey wrench can be made into an adjustable spanner wrench to perform many jobs round the farm. Drill a 3/16" hole in each jaw of the monkey wrench to take two pins, which are pressed into the holes so that they project about 5/16" from the wrench. There is your adjustable spanner.—H.J.M., Fla. ✓



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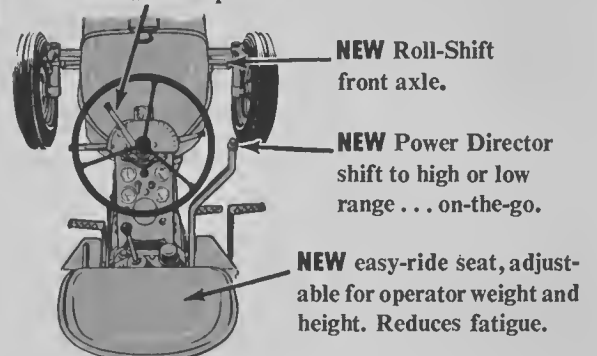
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FARMERS IN BUSINESS SUITS

area. Each of the 75 farmers contributed \$35 toward the establishment of the fund, and 11 business organizations also made substantial financial contributions.

Jack Hudson of the field staff of the Manitoba Pool Elevators was selected to take over the field supervision of the Carman project. Jack was well equipped to assume this position, having previously worked in the field of farm management as well as spending one year at the University of Saskatchewan working toward a master's degree in agricultural economics.

The significance of the association may be expressed in terms of the business which the 75 farmers operate. They control approximately \$3.3 million worth of total assets, a big business in anyone's language. Of this, they have approximately \$1.4 million invested in real estate, and another \$627,000 in machinery and equipment. Their annual total cash expenses amount to around \$754,000. They

manage a debt of close to half a million dollars.

To express it another way: the farmers of the Carman District Farm Business Association are in big business and they want it operated as such. Unlike the modern industrial corporation, the individual farmer cannot afford to hire a highly trained staff to manage his business. In fact he must be his own manager. Through the association, however, 75 individual farmers will be collectively taking advantage of all that is available on farm management. They can justly regard themselves as 75 business executives managing assets of over \$3 million.

THE primary objectives of the Carman District Farm Business Association are:

1. To give the participating farmers a thorough training in farm accounting.
2. To hold schools on the results



Directors of the Carman District Farm Business Association. At far end of the table is Jack Wilton, president, and Lloyd Kitchen, secretary (left).

flowing forth from the analysis of the accounts.

3. To use the results from the farm accounts as a basis for farm planning.
4. To take advantage of demonstration tours on other farms outside of the association.
5. To hold farm management schools where various problems relating to the farm business will be discussed.
6. To develop the experience and background for the development of similar farm management associations in other areas of the province.

During the past year, the farmers of the association have sponsored several interesting events. Hal Routhe, extension economist with the University of Minnesota, was invited last August to spend an evening discussing farm management work in Minnesota, and how it related to the program at Carman. In November, the farmers of the Carman association spent a very profitable day touring a large farm in Manitoba, and the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. The tour provided outside ideas for their own farms at Carman. Again, in the latter part of November, the association sponsored two speakers on the theme of farm credit.

The Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Manitoba is participating in the Carman District Farm Business Association from the standpoint of farm management research. The major problems to be investigated will include many aspects of the farm business. Credit use will be examined. Father-son arrangements and leasing agreements will be studied. The problem of what constitutes an economic size of farm unit will be investigated. Studies of problems, including the advantages and disadvantages of specialized and diversified farming, and the best methods of planning a farm business, will be based on the records of the farmers of the Farm Business Association.

It is also intended that the home side of the family farms in this project at Carman will not be neglected. After all, the family farm is a place for living as well as a place of production and business. Professors Davis and Feniak of the School of Home Economics, University of Manitoba, have already expressed their willingness to work with the farm women on problems connected with the home. The areas of study would include manage-

ment practices in relation to food and nutrition, home planning and equipment, and family finances.

FARMERS in other parts of Canada are also extremely concerned about the business side of their farming operations. They have realized that a successful farmer must be a good businessman as well as an expert in raising crops and livestock. Jim Clark, of Kindersley, Sask., is directing a project of farm accounting involving approximately 200 farmers. The Ontario Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the Ontario Agricultural College, has farm accounting associations scattered throughout Ontario. Cost accounting and farm planning have been one of the programs of the Alberta Department of Agriculture.

In the United States too, farmers are becoming increasingly conscious of the need for assistance in farm business management. In the state of Illinois, for example, 5,000 farmers have formed the Illinois Farm Bureau Farm Management Service. The heart of this service is found in the organization of local associations containing 150 to 200 farmer co-operators. Each association is serviced by a farm management fieldman, who is hired by the association itself. Each farmer co-operator in the association pays an annual fee ranging from \$40 to \$100, depending on the size of business.

Many farmers in Canada might well be wondering why there has been this movement toward farm management in the last decade. The answer is obvious. The modern, commercial farm business is a far cry from the type of farming of 50 years ago, or for that matter 20 years ago.

THE diary of one of the early pioneers in southwestern Manitoba records that in 1880 the needed outlay by a bachelor to begin homesteading in a tent was \$110. Farming methods were in colorful contrast to the highly mechanized farming of modern times. In the 1880's, oxen were used for plowing. Red Fife wheat was sown by broadcasting by hand. The grain was cut with a cradle and tied with straw. Flails were originally used for threshing. When threshing machines did appear, they were powered with a wood-burning portable steam engine and were drawn about the country by 4 to 6 oxen. The lucky housewife was one whose husband was handy with tools. Chairs, tables, beds and "sideboards" were fashioned from the oak and birch of nearby Turtle Mountain.

What a contrast to today's farming! The pioneer of the 1950's will have an



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This small heater puts out enough heat to warm a three-room house, but can be picked up and carried anywhere. It is claimed that the Knipco can do this without danger of fire. It burns kerosene or fuel oil, and is powered by any electric outlet providing 110-115-volt, 60-cycle alternating current. A larger model is available. (Knickerbocker Products Company) (199) v



DOUBLE-DUTY TRUCK

The Travelette (left) is a pickup truck with a six-passenger cab for farm and family transport. The cab has a full-width rear seat with access through a third door. Load length is 90 inches to the rear of the lowered tailgate. (International Harvester) (200) v



FORAGE UNLOADER

A new self-unloading forage box attachment (right) for the John Deere Model N manure spreader is to make the spreader do double duty at less than half the cost of a single-purpose forage wagon. It unloads chopped material, and is available with or without bunk-feeding attachment, for side delivery. (John Deere) (201) v



For further information about any item mentioned in this column write to WHAT'S NEW Department, The Country Guide, 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 12, Man., giving the key number shown at the end of each item, as—(17).

investment varying from \$35,000 to \$50,000, 25 per cent of which will be invested in machinery and equipment. Total cash operating expenses for the farm will vary from \$5,000 to \$15,000. The modern farmer is in big business. The hard, cold facts are that farmers who do not operate as businessmen, will find it increasingly difficult to make a living on the farm.

There is an increasing need for programs designed to give assistance to farmers in farm business management. Perhaps this will be part of the answer to farmers who say that they are now using only half of what they know now in their farm business, without worrying about the latest developments in science and technology. At least, this is the hope of 75 farmers in the Carman district.

(Dr. J. C. Gilson is associate professor of agricultural economics, University of Manitoba.—ed.)

Continued from page 13

FORECAST FOR '58

meal was down about 14 per cent. It is expected that meal supplies will meet requirements.

Forage Seed production in 1957 was sufficient to provide a surplus for export, but the market has been quiet, following increases in U.S. and European seed production. From the standpoint of seedgrowers, market prospects at attractive prices are not good, but Canadian farmers should be able to buy their forage seed in 1958 at prices well below 1957. It is expected that some alfalfa seed will have to be imported into Canada. Supplies of adapted varieties are reported to be adequate in the U.S.A. to meet the Canadian demand.

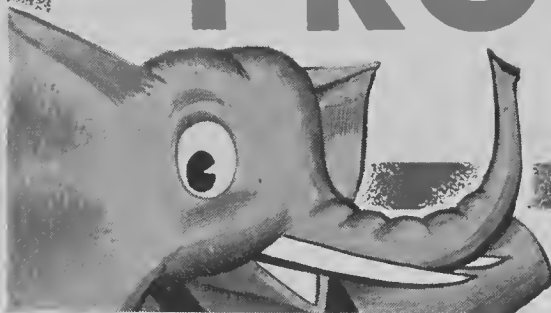
SPECIAL CROPS

Flaxseed. The outlook for marketing the 1957 crop is good. Exports are dominant in determining prices, and it appears at present that the export market will be buoyant in 1958, at least until the spring. The United States is not likely to be a significant exporter in 1957-58, but the Argentine crop prospects are good. As this crop will not be harvested until early this year, Canada should be the largest single exporter of flaxseed for at least the first half of the year, and prices should stay firm during that period.

Soybean crop was a record one in the U.S.A. in 1957, and prices there should remain close to support price levels in 1957-58. If these prices continue to set the prices of soybeans in Canada, the average in this country will likely be around \$2.15 to \$2.30 per bushel. Although Canada will be a substantial importer from the U.S.A. again during this crop year, some of the Canadian crop is likely to go to the United Kingdom, where Canada has a duty preference over the United States.

Rapeseed acreage in Canada was 84 per cent greater in 1957 than in 1956, with an estimated yield of 440 million pounds, or 47 per cent above

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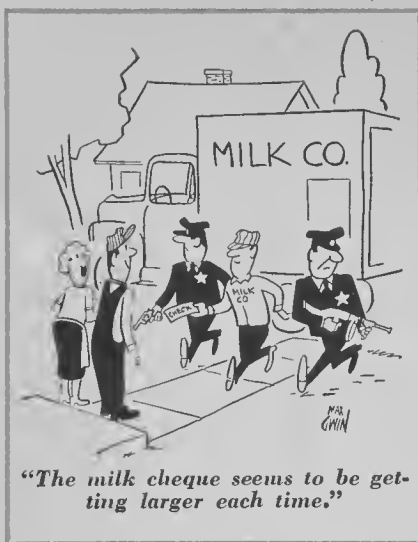
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the previous year. The price paid to growers in 1956-57 was 3.5 cents per pound. The price in the current crop year ranges from 2.5 to 3.5 cents per pound, with most of the crop said to be selling at 3 cents per pound. There are indications that the acreage planted outside of contract increased in the present crop year. Rapeseed has moved swiftly off the farms, with most of the crop exported in seed form. Italy and other Western European countries have been the main market.

Sunflower seed prices are averaging about 4 cents per pound to the producer, compared with 3 cents a year ago.

Mustard seed produced in Canada was mainly of the Oriental type in 1957, in response to Japanese demand. Prices have been unchanged from the 1956 level of 5 cents per pound for No. 1 yellow, and 3 cents for No. 1 brown and No. 1 oriental.

Grain Corn, if industrial users continue to import large proportion of their needs into Canada, will likely depend on livestock feeding to absorb the largest share of the Canadian crop. It is not expected that 1957-58 prices will exceed those of 1956-57.

Sugar Beets. Reflecting world prices, the sugar price in Canada is expected to be less erratic than in the previous crop year. In view of very large world supplies of sugar, the high sugar prices of the winter of 1956-57 are not expected to be repeated. Farm price for the 1957 crop may be slightly lower.

Dried Beans in Ontario, where most of the Canadian crop is located, come under the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act. The minimum price for beans delivered between Jan. 1 and Aug. 14, 1958, is \$6.30 per cwt., or 10 cents less than for the 1956 crop.

Peas. Production is estimated at 1.5 million bushels of dried peas in 1957, or 18 per cent less than in 1956. The price for 1957 peas has been \$2.55 for lower grades, and more for higher grades, compared with an average of \$2.39 per bushel for the 1956 crop.

Fibre Flax. Acreage was only 1,000 in Quebec and 200 in Ontario in 1957, which was about half the acreage of 1956. The domestic market usually absorbs scutched tow, which amounted to 500,000 pounds in 1957, and the U.S. imports the scutched flax, which amounted to 200,000 pounds.

FRUITS and VEGETABLES

Apples. Exports of the 1957 crop appear favorable. The United Kingdom has allocated \$3.5 million for apples from North America, and a short crop in Europe has created a strong demand there. Exports to the United States have increased. Total exports are expected to reach 2 million bushels, compared with 1.4 million in 1956-57. Processing should take another 4 million bushels, against 3.6 million in the previous year.

Little change is anticipated in apple production in Ontario this year, but the total B.C. tree population indicates an increase in recent plantings.

Other Tree Fruits, including apricots, pears, cherries, peaches, plums and prunes, have shown an upward trend in recent orchard censuses. The size of the 1958 crop will depend to a large extent on the weather, but the 1957 output in British Columbia suggests a large recovery from the frost damage of 1955-56.

Small Fruits. Production of strawberries made a comeback in Western Canada during 1957, and is expected to increase still further this year. Larger crops may be expected in Eastern Canada if the weather is favorable.

Raspberry crop is expected to increase in British Columbia this year, and distribution of the new Creston 151 variety should encourage this trend. Indications are that the blueberry crop may increase sharply in Nova Scotia in 1958.

Potatoes. Canada exported 730,000 cwt. of table potatoes in 1956-57. If the present Canada-U.S. price relationship continues, larger exports to the United States are likely this year than last. The processing industry is growing rapidly, and has absorbed 1.6 million cwt. in each of the past two years. Continued expansion is anticipated in 1958. A larger acreage of seed potatoes was certified in 1957 than in the previous year, but the United States reduced its seed import quota to 1.1 million cwt. last September.

Cabbage, carrot, onion and turnip production was larger in 1957 than in 1956 through continued development of new production areas. Since consumer demand is expected to remain strong in 1958, further development is likely.

Processing crops. Prices are lower at processing plants for canned apricots, peaches, cherries, peas, beans, corn and canned tomatoes. No difficulty is expected in marketing these products in 1957-58. Stocks of canned tomatoes, tomato juice and tomato paste were larger on July 1, 1957, and canned tomatoes had doubled compared with 1956.

TOBACCO

Assuming that consumers' income remains high in Canada, the flue-cured tobacco taken by manufacturers will continue its steady increase, and might exceed 105 million pounds, re-dried weight, in 1957-58. Stocks may be down to around 110 million pounds by October this year, suggesting the possibility of a limited supply of old-leaf tobacco for processing in 1958-59.

Continued from page 18

YEAR OF CRISIS FOR MARKETING BOARDS

The board let contracts for three large warehouses. These were built where the crop could be assembled, graded, and sold, and were equipped with Dutch clocks.

An arbitration board award marked another important victory for the new board. It boosted the minimum average purchase price, which had been 45 cents a pound the year before, to 49 cents.

By early December, the three warehouses were completed at a cost of \$1,300,000. It was a stunning accomplishment, because the buildings had been erected even though the board had not yet taken in any money. This was made possible, because the marketing plan provided the board with a one-cent-a-pound handling fee. The fee assured the board of about one and a half million dollars in revenue the first year. The board expects to repay the cost of the buildings in three years, and then slash its marketing charges.

At the official opening of the warehouses and auction, the roads around Tillsonburg were clogged for miles as thousands of cars brought growers and other community people to inspect the new auction exchange. An estimated 13,000 people jammed the warehouse at this assembly point. A brand new era had come to the tobacco industry of Ontario.

President Gray called it the "proudest day of his life. A representative of one world-wide cigarette company, who was on hand to begin buying and whose company was in the process of entering the Canadian market, said that the auction was the accepted method of selling tobacco in other countries, and represented "the only fair way for growers to get a fair price for their crops."

The very existence of the tobacco exchange was symbolic to the growers who journeyed to see it on opening day. There was an air of confidence among them as they smelled the tobacco coming into the shed, saw it graded and weighed, and made ready



Modern methods have been employed by the hog producers' marketing board. Here, operator at Kitchener assembly point handles orders over teletype.



The peach marketing board places emphasis on quality, handling methods, and packaging. Above, peaches are sized and packed at Beamsville plant.

for auction. Yes, a new era had indeed come to their tobacco industry!

The crop had still to be sold, through a system which some buyers said could never work, but for most growers, there was ample evidence that their worst troubles were behind them.

Hog Board Faces Vote

KEY figure in the development of the Ontario Hog Producers' Marketing Board has been its dynamic president, Charles McInnis. This farmer, from Iroquois in eastern Ontario, has come a long distance in the 15 years since he first began his crusade against a system of selling hogs which he condemned for leaving too much control in the hands of buyers. He stands now as a power in the farm movement.

With his eloquent and persuasive tongue, he welded together the scattered hog farmers of the province, to establish the Ontario Hog Producers' Association in 1943. He gained for his group the right to set up a marketing board scheme by rallying them to turn out and carry a vote called by the provincial marketing board in 1946.

When the selling agency, which was set up by the board to negotiate for price with the buyers, failed to bring a sufficient number of hogs away from the "direct-to-packer" shipping route, he launched one of the most intensive information campaigns in the history of farm organizations. In the spring of 1956, some five thousand volunteer members of the association got behind it, called on 34,166 producers, and gained signatures of approval from 89 per cent of them.

Then, the hog board moved to set up a system of marketing yards across the province to intercept hogs as they moved off farms, and bring them under the board's control where they could be used in bargaining for price.

Over the years, the sore point with the agency had been that it never

seemed to gain actual control over the hogs. McInnis cried out against some buyers for paying a bonus to truckers who would deliver hogs direct to their plants. He charged that it was a deliberate attempt to keep hogs off the open market.

Once legislation seemed to clear the way for stronger measures, the board set up its marketing yards, county by county, across the province, and enforced demands that direct shipment to packers be stopped. By December of 1957, over 70 per cent of all hogs being shipped to market in the province, came under the agency's control in this manner.

AT this crucial time, opposition to the compulsory features of the scheme mounted. Minister of Agriculture Goodfellow said he had received hundreds of letters from farmers voicing objections. Truckers were active in leading the producers to revolt. Finally, Mr. Goodfellow ordered that a vote of producers would have to be taken in 1958 to be sure that they really supported the scheme.

This news came as a blow to the hog board. McInnis pointed an accusing finger at the truckers and said:

"It has required 17 years of tireless effort by our association to reach the present point in our marketing plan. Now we are faced with one of the most ironical situations in our whole history, where a shippers' and truckers' association is instrumental in bringing our whole program to a temporary standstill."

From the beginning, most packers have opposed the scheme instituted by the hog board. Their main criticism of the one presently in force has to do with the methods of apportioning hogs. Their charge is given some validity by economists from the department of political economy, University of Alberta, in a study they made of Canada's marketing boards.

The study states: "One of the inherent major defects of the system of control proposed by the hog board is the power to discriminate."

"During the process of receiving bids, the agency, as the only salesman, can play one packer against another in an attempt to raise the price. Once this price is reached, however, packers bidding it receive hogs solely at the discretion of the agency. There is room for discrimination against various processors."

MR. GOODFELLOW concedes that both producers and processors might have some legitimate grounds for complaint against the present scheme. He has voiced the hope that changes might be made to make it more acceptable before a vote is taken, adding that he believes the board could do a great job of getting these hogs out into the open and selling them, using some other means than those presently in force. He says further that, "Many farmers seem to hate this word 'compulsory'."

Hog producers, at their annual meeting, voiced strong objection to a vote at this time, claiming that they should have been allowed more time to bring their plan into effect.

Nevertheless, there is no hesitancy on the part of their president about carrying it through. Mr. McInnis is already hard at work planning an in-

formation campaign designed to arouse producers right across the province to get behind the scheme, and to come out and vote.

The results of that vote will be watched with more than passing interest across the country, because producers in other provinces have been agitating for similar boards. If this vote carries, the demand for other hog boards will undoubtedly grow.

Losses Hurt Peach Board

UNDOUBTEDLY the most severe blow of 1957 to the whole marketing program in Ontario was the financial loss suffered by the peach board's marketing agency, the Peach Growers' Co-operative. This was an unexpected setback, for in its short life, the peach scheme had become an exemplary model of an "agency-type" marketing scheme.

It was voted into effect in 1954, and has been headed by leading district growers like Harry Dawson, whose family before him had grown peaches in the famous peninsula, and who, himself, was a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College.

A heavy affirmative vote launched the scheme as a popular one.

The marketing board survived the highly difficult crop year of 1955, when a hot dry season ripened a bumper crop with an unusual rush, and threatened to clog all markets. The board searched out improved containers and better handling methods. It initiated pre-cooling of fruit for shipment out of the province, to assure buyers of a higher-quality product. It directed peaches to markets which had long been overlooked by an unsupervised trade.

Then, the 1957 season came along.

It had been the agency's policy to set minimum prices, and offer to buy up any fruit that growers could not sell. Fruit received by the agency was stored and sold later when the market strengthened.

Last fall, many of the peaches, bought in the final days of the season, spoiled from an outbreak of brown rot. Before it realized how severe these losses were, the agency accepted delivery of much more fruit than it should have. It finally stopped payment to growers, but not before it had paid for thousands of baskets of peaches which rotted.

It found itself heavily in debt to other growers who had already delivered fruit.

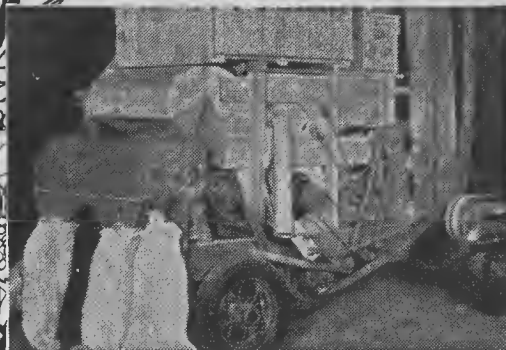
At time of writing, no final assessment has been made of the losses. It is known that 600 of the 3,000 or so peach growers in the province are unpaid for their final deliveries.

As if that was not enough, the board came under ever-increasing fire during the season. A Peach Growers' Protective Committee was set up by some growers to oppose the board. This fight was spurred on by court cases in which the board prosecuted members who failed to comply with its orders.

One vigorous critic of the board was Ollie Ranson of Beamsville, who claimed that the board interfered with his freedom to carry on his own peach business. He recalled voting for the original plan to get rid of the hated "open ticket," which had permitted

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3. Treat for seed-borne diseases.
4. If you use home grown seed, have it cleaned and graded at a qualified seed cleaning plant. Have the cleaned sample tested at a government seed laboratory.
5. Check with your Agricultural Representative for seed supplies and cleaning plants.

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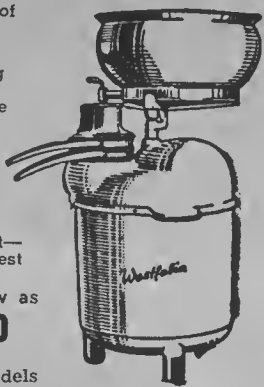
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brokers to sell peaches for whatever price they could get. Under that system, the brokers would retain their commission fees, and return to the growers whatever was left. Often, the returns did not cover the cost of shipping the fruit.

Ranson admitted that he would hate to go back to the original open peach market as it existed before the board, but he waved the peach board regulations, and commented: "These are not democratic."

BOARD chairman Dawson admits that mistakes were made last year. In the face of mounting criticism, his board asked the government to call another vote on the scheme to make certain that growers still supported it. Mr. Goodfellow complied, by scheduling a vote for the spring.

In December, growers elected a new board of directors, who are now carrying on meetings with growers, and drawing up a new scheme designed to meet with more general approval. Growers will be asked to pass judgment on the new scheme in the vote.

If the vote goes against the board, then the Peach Growers' Co-operative will likely go into bankruptcy, and creditors will be paid off at an estimated 50 cents on the dollar.

Many other fruits grown in the peninsula, such as cherries, plums and grapes, are sold outside of marketing board control. Some growers have been pressing to bring these within the control of a board. A year ago, a committee of growers requested Dr. H. L. Patterson, head, Farm Economics Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, to study the means by which these fruits go to market.

His report came as a sharp criticism of the operation of the open market, and fully supported the view of the peach board leaders, that the open market largely fails in its job of pricing the fruit at the highest possible level.

His survey showed that:

- Fresh fruit prices were frequently lower than could be justified by the amount of fruit for sale.
- Prices did not always rise in the face of lower volume.
- Often there was a wide and unexplained fluctuation in the margin between the farm price and the wholesale price.

Dr. Patterson told growers just where the trouble lay, too.

He said that the fruit trade for various reasons, such as its interest in using fruit as a "loss leader," prefers low prices. In fact, he said that of all the groups engaged in the fruit business, the grower was the only one whose interests demanded high prices. However, with fruits like cherries and plums, growers had no strong organization representing them in the market place. As a result, they were in a weak bargaining position compared to other groups in the fruit trade.

He concluded by telling growers just what their leaders have long been insisting; that there is no reason why prices cannot be improved, if growers are able to reach a stronger bargaining position.

That report is bound to influence growers before they vote on the continuation of the peach scheme. V

Farm Organizations

Continued from page 9

direct transactions in feed grain to take place between farmers or farmers' associations, both within and without the area under the jurisdiction of the Board, and that such licenses should allow purchase of feed grains by farmers at a price agreed between buyer and seller. The BCFA maintains that the present control of feed grains by the Board has the effect of placing livestock producers, poultrymen and dairymen in provinces which do not have a surplus of feed grain at an economic disadvantage, as against similar producers in surplus producing provinces. V

Continued from page 11

WORLD SITUATION

It is very obvious that the great upsurge in world output from 1946-47 to 1952-53 is over. What we are experiencing the last few years is a very definite slowing down of output in relation to growth of the population of the world. We may assume that world food output could, and should, increase about 1 per cent a year more than the increase in world population to allow for an expansion in food consumption of the underfed regions of the world, without depressing prices. If this is the case, what is holding back a reasonable recovery in world agriculture?

Farm Recovery Held Back by Heavy Food Stocks. The answer, I believe, is to be found in an examination of world stocks of basic farm products which are now at record levels.

Chart 2, taken from the FAO report "State of Food and Agriculture, 1957," shows clearly the rapid growth in stocks of certain key agricultural products since 1952. This chart shows approximately the movement of the volume of stocks of agricultural products as a whole. The picture is incomplete since it only includes wheat, rice, coarse grains (inc. corn), butter, cheese, dried skim milk, linseed oil, other vegetable oils, sugar, tobacco, cotton and rubber. What is more, for some products, it only includes stocks from one to two countries. But, what is most important, it gives a good picture of the trend.

The chart shows the rapid rise in stocks during the period from 1952 to 1954, then the much slower rise from 1955 to 1957. Another interesting point is the substantial growth in the proportion of the stocks held in North America.

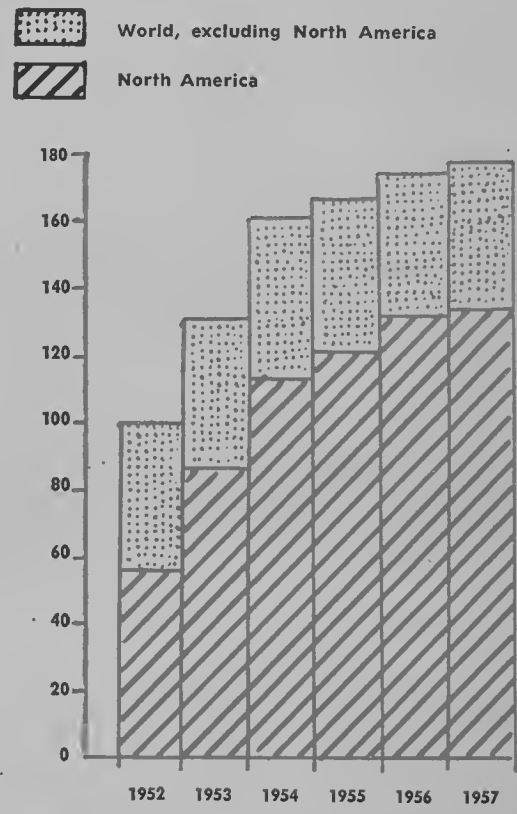
A further examination of the data

STABILIZATION ACT CRITICIZED

The Manitoba Farmers' Union has severely criticized the proposed Agricultural Stabilization Act, and has requested that the Bill which is before the House of Commons (at time of writing) be referred to the agriculture committee for further study. The MFU bases its objection on the three-year moving average as a basic price to be used in calculating support prices under the legislation. It maintains that this base period is not related to any costs of production, to parity prices, nor to giving farmers a fair share of the national income, as promised by the Conservatives when they campaigned for election last summer. V

CHART 2

The Growth of Certain Key Stocks of Agricultural Products in the World and North America—1952-57
(World stocks 1952=100)



world agricultural recession, but rather the relatively large stocks of certain important basic agricultural products.

Start of Slow Decline in the Stocks Hopeful Sign. However, there is some ray of hope that the peak in stocks has been reached, and a fair possibility that they will slowly fall. The first fact which supports this opinion is the slowing down of the rate of increase since 1954 (as noticed in the chart). The second point is in the outlook for 1958. The United States Department of Agriculture anticipates lower carry-over stocks in July 1958 for wheat, rice and cotton, but an increase for feed grains. Canada will have a lower

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carry-over next July (1958) for wheat, and very likely, for oats and barley. The small crops of wheat now being harvested by Australia and Argentina suggest lower stocks of wheat held by these countries next July. Therefore, it now appears that in July 1958 world stocks of most important basic agricultural commodities will be lower than in 1957. This should add some strength to the general international price structure for basic farm product prices in 1958, even with crop yields about the same as those of recent years.

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DEMAND

IN 1958, supplies of most farm products in Canada will be at record, or near record, levels. Production of beef and pork will increase over the levels of 1957. Milk production will increase. The volume of eggs will be about the same as in 1957, and turkey output will likely surpass the levels of 1957.

Customary Rise in Demand for Food Doubtful in 1958. Over the past few years we have become accustomed to a substantial annual increase in domestic demand for food, due to a rapid increase in population, full employment and rising wage rates.

However, in 1958 the increase in demand for food in Canada over the levels of 1957 will likely be small. Employment will be less, immigration will likely be less and wage increases will be smaller.

The present recession in business in Canada and the United States has all the earmarks of being more significant than the recession of 1954.

During the recession of 1954 in North America, practically no repercussions were felt in Europe. However, this time we are told that a few weak spots have appeared in Europe. Balance of payment difficulties are beginning to show up which could lead to a slackening of imports by Europe.

No Farm Price Improvement in 1958. I am inclined to believe therefore, that the weaker domestic and foreign demand for farm products will tend to offset, to some extent, the point which I made above, that lower stocks of basic farm commodities would be a strengthening factor late in 1958. On balance, therefore, I would not expect to see any overall increase in prices of farm products in Canada in 1958. Here and there, small increases will be offset by decreases.

Cost of commodities and services bought by farmers are not likely to increase as much in 1958 as they did in 1957. This is because industrial prices and industrial wages will show little change from last year.

Farm Recovery Delayed. I would suspect, therefore, that the combined effect of all these factors would be a delay in the recovery of the farm economy. I would expect no improvement in the parity ratio in 1958, that is no lessening in the cost-price squeeze in 1958 compared with 1957.

WORLD agricultural production, relative to world population, is no longer expanding rapidly. Annual production is practically in balance with growth of population, but economic recovery in world agriculture

is being retarded by excessive surplus stocks of a number of key agricultural commodities. These stocks are particularly heavy in North America.

In view of the present state of international tension, and the large proportion of national budgets spent on defense, it is very unlikely that a serious world depression is in the offing.

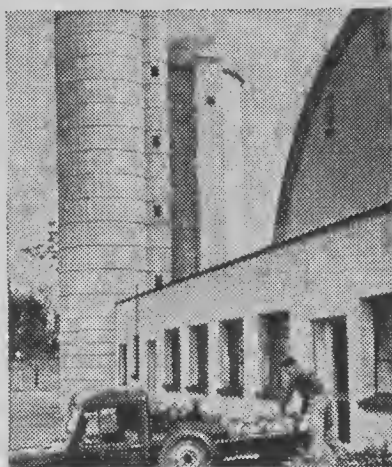
Over the next few years, the trend of prices for manufactured goods and prices of basic industrial materials

will likely be up. Urban wage rates will continue to rise. These factors could prolong the cost-price squeeze on the farmer unless, or until, the present excessive stocks of basic farm products can be brought down to more normal levels.

In Canada, in particular, it is doubtful if agricultural production can be brought to balance with effective demand as long as we have such large stocks of wheat coupled with the inability of the western grain producer

to sell what he produces. This single factor probably is the key to our current farm problem. In the final analysis, excessive grain supplies are responsible for much of our excessive volume of hogs, eggs, fowl, turkeys, beef and milk. These products, apart from wheat, make up the bulk of Canada's farm output.

(Dr. E. C. Hope is economist for the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.—ed.)



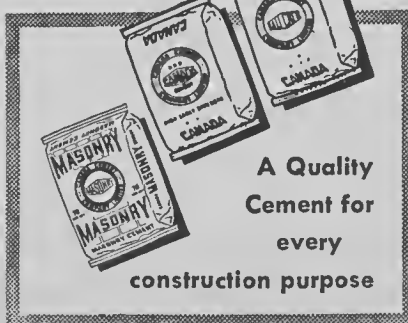
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Continued from page 15

THE TARTANED HOOTLET

"Eat up heartily," urged the kindly mother.

"Och, Ah couldna swally anither bite," he protested.

She fetched grasshoppers from the grainfield to tempt him, also glossy June bugs from the pasture, but MacOwl would have none of them.

"Ah've nae appetite fer sich like things," said he.

"What am I going to do about you, MacOwl?" she worried.

For the time had come when young owls should leave the nest. Already his sister and brother had sprouted wing feathers. MacOwl, for his part, had sprouted something else again. His wings were weirdly colored in reds and yellows and blues, all striped this way and that and laid over a dark green background.

"Perhaps you'll molt out of it," consoled the mother, trying to be cheerful despite her misgivings.

"'Tis a gey fine plaidie," said Great Horned MacOwl. "Ah've no complaints about ma adornments, if only Ah could ha'e some nourishment that wad put fat on ma skinny frame."

"Well, I simply can't find any neeps or those other mysterious things," responded the mother, so she went ahead with the next part of their training. Before they could fly out into the wide world, she explained, they had to know how to hoot.

"Our species has a special call," she informed them. "Listen carefully, and after I demonstrate, you can try it for yourselves."

The big bird leaned her head forward, gave her tail a brief swish, then uttered a deep and booming:

"Ku-hoooooooo! HooooooooooooOO! HooooooooooooOOOOOOOOOO!"

The sister and brother had no trouble imitating her hoot, though their notes were not as deep and did not boom as loudly as the mother's call.

"Now, MacOwl; you have a try at it."

"Och, Ah'm too hungry tae be bothered."

"Well, first have a mouthful of mouse, then try it."

"Never mind the moosie," said MacOwl. "If Ah must mak' a hootling, Ah'll do it without the help o' yon scunnerin' wee beastie."

So he inhaled deeply, puffed up his chest, gave his plaidie wings a huffle, then opened his beak and let go. Out came a bubbly, squally, moaning sort of wail that went shrilling through the startled night woodlands.

"Smith's farm!" screamed the mother.

She whirled away from the nest. The other two owlets quickly followed her, so frightened that they started flying without taking any lessons on how to do it. In a few seconds the three owls had flapped out of sight.

"Hey, Mither! Hey, Sister and Brither! Whaur are ye the noo?" called MacOwl.

Faintly, and from far away in the darkness, came a hooted answer that sounded a sad farewell. Great Horned MacOwl was left alone in the deserted home.

"Ah canna understand why they left in sich a hurry! 'Twas a fine hootling Ah made, and they didna even compliment me on it!"

ALL that long night he sat forlorn and lonely on the spruce tree nest. He kept looking at the dark shadows of the nearby forest, hoping to see his mother come soaring out of the night. But she did not appear, nor did his sister or his brother. At last, as night was nearing its end, MacOwl realized that he must help himself.

"Ah'll juist fly aff and find them," he decided, and forthwith stepped off the nest platform and flapped his wings.

The next thing he knew, he was hurtling downward at great speed. Happily the ground was padded with soft moss, so he suffered no harm. With a wig and a waggle he adjusted his feathers, then went waddling bow-legged along the ground just as dawn's green light tinted the eastern sky.

He hadn't travelled far before he met an enemy. It was a skulking big coyote, a tawny wild dog out foraging for its breakfast. It rushed at MacOwl with a snarl. The bird dodged behind a tree trunk, but the coyote raced around the other side and its white fangs gleamed in a wicked way as it prepared to close them on the birdling.

MacOwl opened his beak and uttered a single squall.

At that, the coyote backed away, cocking its head and staring at the tartaned owl as though not quite believing what it saw and heard.

"Ah'll juist gi'e ye a proper blast," said MacOwl, and drew a full breath and let go. Out came the groaning, moaning, bubble and squall.

The coyote spun on its lanky legs and bounced away at full gallop, ki-yipping its fright as it ran.

"Och, noo!" said MacOwl, pleased with himself. "This hootling may be a verra usefu' accomplishment, besides being a gey fine music."

So he wandered on, and in his newfound pride he wore one ear-tuft cocked high at the side of his head for all the world like the cock plumes on a Balmoral bonnet.

It was an eventful journey, that early dawn walk through the tall timber. He was nearly devoured by a

ferocious wildcat known as a Canada lynx. No doubt he would have been devoured, too, if MacOwl hadn't hooted. At the sound of that squally boomer, the lynx fitz-yowled in cat fashion and scooted away at smoking speed. A slim but dangerous mink was also willing to eat the undernourished owl, but when MacOwl hooted, the mink didn't stop running for three days. Even a hulking brute of a big black bear went hippering off after hearing the hootling.

By this time it was daylight and MacOwl found the pasture next the forest. He couldn't see the farm house at the far end of that field, but he could smell something. Roderick Dugal MacTavish Smith was cooking porridge.

MacOwl reached the Smith home just as Roderick Dugal set the pot on the kitchen window sill to cool in the morning air.

"Ehhh, whit a braw aroma!" muttered the tired little bird.

He hadn't strength enough to fly, but by vigorous use of beak and claw he climbed up the side of the log-house wall and finally reached the window sill. Next minute he tumbled headfirst into the pot.

"Havers alive!" thundered Mr. Smith. "Whit's this, skirlin' about in ma purritch?"

The Scot looked fearsomely savage, ten times worse than the coyote, lynx, mink, and black bear all mixed up together. MacOwl wiped some of the nourishing porridge off his beak, puffed up his chest in a hurry, then gave his special hootling to frighten off this horrible human.

But when he heard the wailing, bubbly, squally moan, Roderick Dugal MacTavish Smith wasn't frightened at all.

"'Tis ma lost drrrrrone!" cried he. "The drone o' ma grandfayther's pipes, gone since the bag burrrst on yon sad spring night when Ah wis homesick."

Then the sandy-headed Mr. Smith reached down a huge hand and grabbed MacOwl by the scruff of his befeathered neck and lifted him out of the porridge pot. The man's fierce blue eyes glowered into the equally fierce eyes of the tartaned birdling.

"Whaur did ye get ma drone?" bel-lowed Mr. Smith. "An' whit's yer name, ye snivellin' purritch thief?"

At that, the little owl drew himself up with dignity—a difficult thing to do while an over-sized Scotsman had hold of the back of his neck. But somehow he managed it, and his eyes glowered right back at the angry Mr. Smith.

"Ma name's Grrreat Horrrrrned MacOwl," he stated. "An' the drone ye refer to is ma hoot, and it's no' yours but ma ain personal prrrrroperty. As fer stealin' yer purritch, Ah plead guilty and wi' good reason. Ah wis starvin' on accoont o' ma Mither feedin' me field mice an' froggies an' squishy gophers, so when Ah smelled yer braw brew, Ah clean forgot ma manners an' helped mase' tae yer purritch without askin' by yer leave."

"Gophers, ye say?" marveled Mr. Smith.

"Aye, also sharp-snooted shrews, complete wi' scent glands that fair made yer mouth pucker wi' horror."

"Whoosh!" said Smith.

"Big buglets, even, an' once she thrust a crawly caterpillar doon ma thrapple."

"Michty me!" the farmer shuddered. "In that case, ye'd best come awa' ben the hoose tae the table and we'll see about mendin' yer hunger."

He took MacOwl to the dining room and set before him a bowlful of cock-a-leekie soup. He next gave him finnan haddie smothered in heather sauce, and a heaping plateful of haggis and taties and golden mashed neeps. The feast ended with short-bread spread with Rowan-berry jelly.

When he had finished eating, Great Horned MacOwl was five times the bird he had been before. All the gay colors of his tartan glowed brilliantly as he burped with a Gaelic urp.

THEN Mr. Smith said: "Let's hear again that hootling, if ye'll be sai kind."

So the stuffed MacOwl produced the squally hoot, whereupon Farmer Smith beamed his pleasure.

"'Tis the proper drone note, right enou! Wait a wee while Ah get ma grandfayther's pipes."

He hurried up to the humpy-backed trunk in the attic, took out the broken bagpipes, then carried them downstairs to show them to MacOwl.

"The bag thingy is split an' ma drone no longer plays, but the chanter pipe works fine. Listen while Ah tootle on it."

As soon as Roderick Dugal MacTavish Smith blew on the chanter, MacOwl felt an irresistible urge to hoot. So he hooted. The droning hoot and the shrilling toot blended to produce the most amazing music, with Great Horned MacOwl marching up and down the table top while Bag-piper Smith strode around and around the room. They played the Reel o' Tulloch, Bonnie Dundee, and Wha Saw the Kiltie Laddie.

Mr. Smith ran out of breath just about the time that MacOwl ran out of hoots, so they had to stop.

"Ah hevna felt sae contented-like for a lang time," cried Roderick Dugal.

"The same wi' mase'," nodded MacOwl.

Regretfully, Mr. Smith laid aside the pipes.

"Aweel, there's ma sheep tae tend an' ma oats tae harvest, along wi' the neeps and a bit of barley. Ah mustn't neglect ma worrrrrrk."

MacOwl nodded again. "Yes, yes; we must do oor worrrrrrk. Ah must awa' and find ma Mither an' ma Sister and Brither and help them along wi' the owl business."

"But ye'll come back again aoon?" pleaded Mr. Smith.

"Weel, Ah wis juist hopin' ye'd ask me. Ye see, ma Mither will try tae stuff me full o' rats and sich scunners, so like as not Ah'll be hungered again afore long."

"Then Ah'll keep the purritch pot on the boil," Smith declared. "Come ony time at a', when're ye canna stand they moosie things and need braw guid fare again. We'll ha'e a bit of music when ye come."

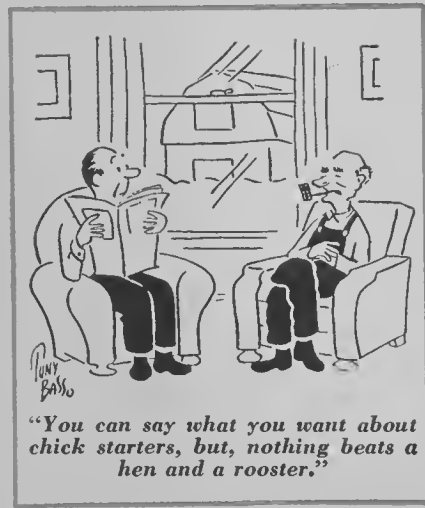
"Fine, Ah'll come!" nodded MacOwl.

Then away he flew, hootling as he went.

Roderick Dugal MacTavish waved the porridge spoon in farewell, muttering to himself: "A gey fine hootlet!"

"Aye," agreed Great Horned MacOwl.

And many a grand hoot and toot they had together, ever after. V



Home and Family



New Year Attitudes

by GLENORA PEARCE

BY long custom the New Year has been an occasion for contemplation and good resolves. It turns a clean page on which all of us hope will be written a better and more satisfying record of farm living.

Rural life had a good beginning with our pioneers. Their experiences in living close to nature, developed for them a spirit of freedom and co-operation. They built their homes in the beauty of natural surroundings and landscaped to enhance the pleasures of country living. Theirs was a happy family life.

The transformation in rural living in the last 20 years has been a gratifying one. A quick mental inventory of the farms blessed with electricity, the rural boys and girls who have been to college, and the widened horizons of the homemaker, should tell us it has been a happy change. However, this better life is by no means universal. Even in our own country's chart of progress, there are many lags and dips.

Could this be due to an indifference to the establishment of ideals of better living? It has been said that ideals are like stars. You will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the ancient mariner you choose them as your guide, and following them will reach your destination.

The hope of establishing a better farm living, so far as outward appearances are concerned, may not seem very promising. But these appearances are not necessarily final. The individual has power to alter and improve his inner self and, in so doing, change the circumstances about him. This then, is the challenge of the New Year to all of us. To build higher our own stock of faith and ideals and thus do our part in changing the conditions of our time.

After all, a great many improvements can be made now, as in past years, with sound planning and hard work, but little money. Budget planning can be done to provide educational experiences for all the family, including good books, magazines and music. We can have the satisfaction of better homemaking, knowing that our family life is offering love and security.

As faith is the generator of any change for the better, so it must be powered by ideals. Their influence in Canadian life has sadly declined. The signs of that fact are evident in many quarters. Although ideals may never be reached, the pursuit of them determines progress and their revitalizing is one of our country's greatest needs. It is a task that cannot be delegated to somebody else but must begin with each of us. As we look forward on the New Year we might well accept this task, which may help our family to obtain greater rewards from better farm living.

You? Beautiful?

... Yes, if you can acquire inner peace and a neat exterior

by MARION HARLAND

"NORTH AMERICAN women are the most beautiful and best proportioned in the world. They have fine legs, good feet, healthy color, shining hair. They are not hard to dress. On the other hand, they are not erect and queenly. They have a posture of their own, a comfortable, easy, casual way of moving."

—Claire McCardell, dress designer.

Miss McCardell is outspoken, and to some minds, well-spoken. As a designer who amassed a fortune through pleasing the average woman, her words should not be lightly dismissed. The average woman on this continent is the housewife. Rural housewives do not usually consider themselves, nor are they generally regarded, as beautiful. Are they?

Since Miss McCardell has used the term "beautiful" in the physical sense, her declaration rates an argument. North American women very often are beautiful, IF they leave well enough alone. But too often the exaggerated Hollywood image is their guide in use of cosmetics and costume, with the following true example sometimes the result:

It was shortly after 8 a.m. and the district's stenos and secretaries were off to work. Each had spent considerable time in selection of dress and application of make-up, and so they sat rather smugly in their latest fashions and critically eyed others stepping into the bus. Suddenly the more intelligent riders saw the folly and extravagance of their efforts. A young European woman had boarded the bus. She was neatly but very plainly dressed, and wore little make-up, but in this tranquil simplicity appeared ten, twenty times more attractive than any of the painted women around her. Into the mind of one woman passenger flashed a remark attributed to John Robert Powers, director of the famous Powers' Model Agency. "Her beauty lay in her unawareness of being beautiful."

Because the average farmwife has little time to worry about, and sometimes little money to spend on dress and cosmetics, she holds an advantage over those who chase after beauty with as many aids as money can buy. Like a newly discovered gem that requires just a little polishing to sparkle brilliantly, so she should respond to a little grooming.

What is grooming? Quick and habit-forming attention to personal cleanliness and neatness, mastery of which gives an onlooker the illusion of a beauty as natural as breathing. But as there are facets in a diamond, so there are many facets to this one illusion. Some of them are herewith enumerated, and punctuated by advice, complimentary and barbed, of acknowledged experts.

"Skin treatment begins inside, with what you think and what you eat. You can injure your whole body with worry or anger, and you can ruin your health by not eating properly."

—Gaby Bruyere, renowned French beauty.

It is wise to:

1. Have a medical checkup once a year. This is especially advisable for older women. Form the habit of letting a dentist inspect your mouth every six months.
2. Eat less pastry and sweets, more fruit, vegetables and meat. Instead of a between-meal cookie, chew a raw carrot or a piece of cheese. Drink plenty of liquids each day.
3. Get out into the fresh air for an invigorating walk every day if possible. Dress warmly and walk until you feel the cobwebs have all been swept from your system. Sparkle will return to your eyes and enthusiasm to the voice; and, a daily walk can reduce waist, hip and thigh flabbiness.
4. Experiment with make-up until you have found the most flattering shade of make-up base and powder, rouge and lipstick. Be individual. If you have nicely shaped eyebrows keep them that way with the aid of tweezers. Have a fingernail file handy to trim broken nails, and use a cream lotion regularly to keep hands soft and unchapped.
5. Nothing helps a person's complexion like thorough cleansing, a nourishing cream, and getting to bed before 1 a.m. Women usually need longer hours of sleep than men for a feeling of well-being, despite the fact that they appear to have more staying power than men.



Personal attractiveness can be cultivated by the rural housewife.

6. Wash often, rinse well. "Rinse the hair until it squeaks" advise the shampoo bottle instructions. If the hair tends to be oily, wash it once a month with liquid household detergent instead of your regular shampoo. The scalp will feel refreshingly freed of oppressive oil and scurf.

"Pluck out the hairpins, Sue, and let her roll; Don't be so stingy with your blooming hair."

—Don Marquis, humorist.

7. It may be said jokingly, but underneath there is probably hope that you will find a new hairdo. At any rate, it doesn't hurt to experiment now and then with hair styles. Ask a qualified hairdresser to shape your hair. Given this proper start, a hairdo can usually be cared for very easily at home.
8. If curling is required, have a beauty shop administer a good permanent, or call in a friend to give you a home permanent. Sometimes the latter gives the desired soft curl quicker, but care must be taken in handling the solution.
9. Brushing makes hair behave. Rita Hayworth, whose lovely tresses are the envy of many in moviedom, carries a small brush in her purse and uses it as we would use a comb.
10. If you have to set your hair in pincurls each night, take a tip from one of New York's highest paid models, Jean Patchett. She wears a frilly or flowered nightcap over her pincurls. At first her husband teased her about stealing tricks from great-grandma, but he had to admit it looked more becoming than the usual clump of bristling pins.

11. Dress your age. Those who chase after youth often look ridiculous. Remember that each new year adds a certain allure. French millinery stylist, Lilly Dache, observed, "European men really do not consider a woman really fascinating unless she is older, mature, and does not expect all the world to be perfection."
12. Leave the frills and furbelows to someone else. In the words of Valentina, Russian-born designer who garbs the well-dressed Duchess of Windsor, "Put yourself in the mirror. Ask 'What I could remove from dress?' If nothing should come off, is good dress."

"A really shrewd woman will shun every new style — such as the heelless slippers now in vogue, or the strapless sun-dress — until she convinces herself it will bring out her best, rather than her worst, features."

—Eddy Senz, beauty consultant.

13. Footwear should be just as simple in design, not calling attention to the feet. The above-quoted Mr. Senz elaborates: "I keep running into this dreadful sight: big-footed, shapeless women who pad around in the new heelless slippers. Such slippers are fine for any girl lucky enough to have the grace and physique of a ballet dancer, but otherwise they're unflattering." To minimize ankle thickness, wear a stocking with slender, pointed heel. Seamless stockings tend to fill out the thin leg.
14. Experiment with accessories, keeping in mind that a tried and true combination is the pearl necklace and pearl earrings.

15. Says the Italian Simonetta, a fast rising star in the fashion design firmament: "The best way to conceal defects is to emphasize them. If you have a big bust, drape fabric across it instead of trying to flatten it down. If you have big hips, wear a wide skirt. You need a good corset, well-fitting shoes, and a neat hairdo. But the important thing is carriage. Carriage is 90 per cent of how you look in your clothes."

*"Her voice was ever soft,
Gentle, and low, an excellent
thing in woman."*

—William Shakespeare,
dramatist.

16. Talk quietly, laugh more, speak kindly. In regard to the latter, a John Barrymore reminiscence is recalled, "My wife was too beautiful for words, but not for arguments."

*"Middle age is a time of slowing
tempo and relaxing tissues.
No matter how old you are, you
are not too old to take care of
your body and your soul, and
never before in the history of
civilization have there been so
many excellent opportunities for
keeping both of them fit."*

—W. Beran Wolfe,
M.D. and author.

17. Relax a little. The feeling of hurry and tenseness consumes energy and strains the nervous system.

18. Straighten up whenever you catch yourself slouching, hip-sitting, sitting hunched over, or leaning against objects. Even though she had a short, stout figure, Queen Victoria was admired for her fine, imposing bearing.
19. To counteract drooping facial lines that come with increasing age, sweep the hair up softly and becomingly at the sides. Wear a light pink, coral, or clear red lipstick. Be careful with rouge . . . a little goes a very long way. Perhaps your skin would look better with a warmer, livelier color of powder. Experiment again and again until the compliments come regularly.

20. "Boredom will make you old," says beautician Elizabeth Arden.

No one knows her age—the first Arden salon was established in the early 1900's—but the founder is said to look about forty, and have the energy, vitality, and a good deal of the charm of a girl in her mid-twenties. She is keenly interested in her work, charity organizations, animals, art, furniture, flowers, and life generally.

Miss Arden built her business into an empire, and so the farmwife can in her home build a happy life. There is no need to envy the business girl's spending money and all the clothes it can buy. In having to make do with what she has, the rural housewife has an opportunity to acquire the best beauty, a natural one. All that is required of her is a little conscientious grooming. V

Fireproofing Fabrics

OFTEN country people have occasion to burn brush or garbage. Most adults love an open fire and children seem to be irresistibly attracted by the bright flames and inviting warmth. Unfortunately each year, dozens of accidents occur in which people, and children in particular, are badly burned, and sometimes maimed for life.

To prevent such accidents there are several precautions which require little time and effort but pay rich dividends. First of all, it's always wise to have an adult present whenever there's an open fire, whether it is outdoors or in the home fireplace. Another effective precaution is to make articles of clothing fire resistant.

Several commercial methods for treating fabrics with flame retardants have been developed recently. Even after repeated laundering or dry cleaning the chemical remains effective. Treated fabrics will char but not flame. Although not yet in widespread use, these fabrics are appearing in clothing, slip-covers, curtains, pillows, mattress ticking and stuffing. Look for labels identifying flame-resistant fabrics and follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

For clothing which you already have, there is a very simply made solution which imparts a protective film to garments in case an accident should occur. For every gallon of water, nine ounces of borax and four ounces of boric acid are added. Make

a paste of the powdered boric acid and a little cold water. Then add hot water and the borax. Leave any items to be treated in this solution for 15 to 20 minutes. It's safe to say that any item that can be dipped in water can be treated with this solution. A word of warning though. The solution must be used on the clothing after each washing for the garments to remain fire resistant.

This method has been tested on two doll dresses. One was dipped in the solution and the other was left alone. A lighted taper was held to each dress for three minutes. When they were examined, the treated dress was found to be only slightly charred where the flame had touched it, while the untreated dress was a blackened mass, seconds after being caught by the flame.

Other household items can be fireproofed, once the solution is made. Drapes, curtains, slip-covers, pillows and any open weave fabric responds well to this treatment.

Although treated fabric does not change much in appearance, it does scorch easily. It's a good idea to press a garment with a steam iron and a damp cloth. Ironing this type of fabric will not remove the fire resistant qualities but if the garment is constantly exposed to heat, the fireproofing chemicals may lose their effectiveness. Chemicals may also shake out of the fabric but redipping the garment will restore flame resistance. V



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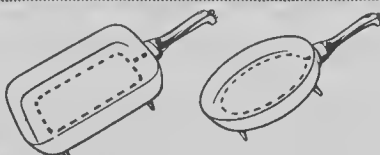
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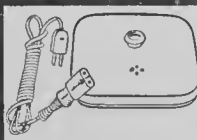
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by JULIA MANN

Illustrated by MARY FLEMING



"THE best years of my life." That is what Grandma said the other day and that is how she really feels about these later years of her life. In Canada, 20 years ago, 1 person in 18 was in Grandma's age group of 65 years or over. Now it is about 1 person in 13, and the trend is continuing. These people, then, will be interested to know Grandma has offered to share her secrets of being able to enjoy those golden years.

Naturally as one grows older, there are adjustments that must be made. However, it has been shown by research that many of the characteristics of old age can be attributed to chronically poor nutrition, which can be retarded if not completely avoided. This can be best done if the advice of a noted authority is followed. "Add life to the years, as well as years to the life."

There seems to be a misconception that older people, because they are not as active as they have been, need very little food. Older people probably need a few less energy foods in quantity, but they should plan to eat something of everything.

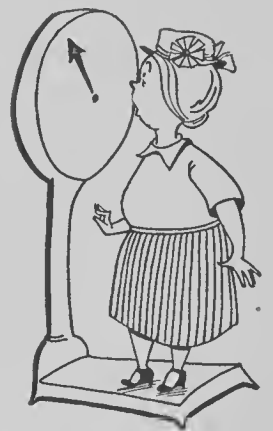
Another common belief is that elderly people need very little of the protein foods. A protein intake which does not meet the needs of the body will result in muscular weakness, mental depression and a feeling of tiredness. Perhaps one of the problems here is that many of these men and women have inadequate number of teeth or poorly fitting dentures. The use of ground or stewed meats, and the eating of eggs could be a solution in such cases.

Milk is another good source of protein, but is frequently avoided by older people because they think of it as a child's food. Since milk is a superior source of two essential minerals, calcium and phosphorus, as well as a good source of important vitamins, diets lacking in milk are apt to be nutritionally deficient.

It has also been found that many in the older age groups do not get enough of certain vitamins. There is evidence that the thiamine (Vitamin B) requirement of older people is actually greater than that of the younger adult, probably because of poorer utilization. A source of this vitamin is whole grain cereals. Leg cramps, mental depression and poor appetites are all signs of a lack of thiamine.

Part of under nutrition may be a result of poor food habits. Since appetites are less keen than in earlier years, a tendency to become fussy or faddish in eating habits may develop. As a diet becomes more restricted, digestion becomes poorer and the habit of eating between meals will probably develop. As a consequence a daily diet may consist of little more than tea or coffee and toast.

What is needed is a substantial breakfast, which includes fruit, an



egg or milk, hot cereal or toast, and coffee. This will satisfy the needs until the noon meal, which for many of the elderly people should be the heaviest meal of the day. A lighter evening meal is usually conducive to a better night's rest. Included in the day's meals should be a pint of milk, a serving of meat or other protein food, two or more vegetables, two or more fruits, and breads or other cereal, some of which should be of the dark or whole grain variety. Such a diet will pay big dividends in greater vitality, better health and improved mental vigor.

Now there are some special problems on which Grandma has ideas to offer. Money troubles may be one of these, so here are some money-saving tips.

- Root vegetables are cheaper than other vegetables.
- Less tender cuts of meat are cheaper, but still high in food value.
- Whole grain cereals and bread are more nutritious and less expensive.
- Skim milk powder is nutritious



and about one-half the cost of whole fresh milk.

• Fruits and vegetables are less expensive when in season.

Other problems may develop because you are confined to cooking on a hot plate. Grandma is in this position, but it doesn't mean she has to fry everything. She suggests making use of your double boiler, by cooking vegetables in the bottom and a milk pudding on top or macaroni and cheese in the bottom and a milk soup in the top. Then there are one-dish meals, such as vegetable stews, remembering to put the vegetables that cook most quickly in last.

Still another problem may be overweight. You had better ask your doctor about this. However, the foregoing food guide is good in these cases. You might remember foods that satisfy, but don't tend to add weight, are fruits, vegetables, clear soups and fruit juices.

Grandma also suggests a hobby. The more useful the hobby the better it is. You'll find it is a good appetizer, too.

Here are a few specially healthful recipes from Grandma's cookbook:

Vanilla Pudding

(2 servings)

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. milk pudding mix $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. vanilla
1 c. water $\frac{1}{2}$ T. butter

Combine the pudding mix with water. Cook over boiling water, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat. Add vanilla and butter. Serve warm or cold.

Milk Pudding Mix

$1\frac{1}{4}$ c. cornstarch, 1 lb. pkg. skim
sifted milk powder
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. sugar 1 tsp. salt

Sift all the ingredients together three times. Put into a glass jar. Close the jar tightly and store in a dry place.

Beef Liver Casserole

(Serves 2)

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. beef liver, 3 slices fatty
thinly sliced bacon
1 small onion 1 T. mild
peeled, sliced vinegar
1 large sour apple $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt
peeled, sliced Pepper
 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. stock Thyme

Cut the beef liver into serving pieces. Fry lightly in moderately hot fat. Place alternate layers of liver, onion, and raw apple in a casserole. Cut the bacon in short pieces to cover the top. Heat the stock, vinegar, seasonings and thyme and pour over the contents of the casserole. Cover tightly. Bake in a moderate oven (350°F.) for the final half hour of cooking.

Raisin Spice Muffins

(Yield—18)

$1\frac{1}{2}$ c. sifted pastry flour $1\frac{1}{4}$ c. milk
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. whole wheat flour, unsifted $\frac{1}{2}$ c. melted fat
4 tsp. baking powder 2 eggs well
2 tsp. salt $\frac{2}{3}$ c. raisins washed and dried
3 T. sugar Sugar and cinnamon

Sift the flours, baking powder, salt and sugar into a mixing bowl. Add the milk and melted fat to the well beaten eggs. Add the liquid mixture all at once to the dry mixture. Stir just enough to thoroughly dampen the flour, disregarding the lumps. Stir the raisins in quickly just before pouring into hot, well-greased muffin pans. Sprinkle each muffin with sugar and cinnamon. Bake in a hot oven (425°F.) for 15 minutes. ✓

Paper Is Handy

HOW about adding paper towels to your supply of kitchen aids?

It's amazing how often they can be used, and the number of odd jobs they can simplify. Dispensers or wall brackets that hold a roll of toweling may be mounted close to the kitchen sink and work surfaces, so that towels are always at hand. (Dispensers that hold the three common papers—waxed, aluminum foil and paper toweling are perhaps the most useful.) Aside from the obvious uses for toweling of drying hands and wiping out greasy pans, there are some additional uses which you may find helpful.

1. Tarnished silverware can be treated, as it's washed, with a rub of silver polish on a dampened paper towel. This is particularly good for egg tarnish on forks and spoons.
2. Spills on the stove can be wiped up immediately with a paper towel, which absorbs grease or liquid without damaging the hot enamel surface. The towel should be dry. Water should never be used until the stove is cool.
3. The kitchen sink will have a sparkling look when cleaned with a paper towel wrung out of suds. Towels will also save dishcloths if used to apply scouring powder.
4. Spills on kitchen floors are so easily tracked through the house. By wiping up drops of water or

spots of grease immediately with a disposable towel, the floor is kept clean longer and is less treacherous.

5. Wilted salad greens take on a fresh appearance when wrapped for a few hours in a dampened paper towel and stored in the refrigerator.
6. Handling hot foods, such as baked potatoes, toasted sandwiches or hot rolls, is often difficult. A paper towel will supply the necessary insulation.
7. Catsup and salad dressing bottles often look messy after they are used once or twice. A quick wipe with a dampened paper towel will keep them clean and free from dried-out crust.
8. Stock skimming can be made easier with paper toweling. Simply draw a piece of towel across the top of soup to pick up the excess fat. No waste and fuss.
9. Draining berries and grapes sometimes leads to stained cloths or dish towels. Paper comes in handy to do a neat job—and leaves nothing to clean.

There are many other uses for paper towels—washing windows, cleaning muddy shoes and boots and so on. What is more appreciated is that use of these towels cuts down laundry, and provides a first-rate substitute for fabric cloths and towels. ✓

Tempting Sugar 'n' Spice BUNS



Easy to make...
delicious piping hot!

Whether you serve them fresh from the oven for tea-time snacks, or toasted and generously buttered for breakfast, the whole family will cheer when you serve delicious, fragrant Sugar 'n' Spice Buns. They're easy to make, too, with Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast... so when you bake at home, why not surprise your family with this sugar 'n' spice treat?

SUGAR 'N' SPICE BUNS

Makes 32 buns

Wash and dry

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup seedless raisins
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup currants

Scald

1 cup milk

Remove from heat and stir in

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup shortening
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup granulated sugar

Cool to lukewarm.

In the meantime, measure into a large bowl

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup lukewarm water
2 teaspoons granulated sugar

and stir until sugar is dissolved.

Sprinkle with contents of

2 envelopes Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

Sift together 3 times

2 cups once-sifted all-purpose flour
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground nutmeg
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground cloves

Stir the lukewarm milk mixture and

1 well-beaten egg

into the yeast mixture.

Stir in the sifted dry ingredients and beat until smooth and elastic. Stir in the fruits and beat well.

Work in

$2\frac{1}{2}$ cups more (about) once-sifted all-purpose flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead dough until smooth and elastic.

Place in a greased bowl and brush lightly with melted butter or margarine.

Cover and set dough in warm place, free from draft and let rise until doubled in bulk—about 1½ hours. Punch down dough. Divide dough in half. Form each half of dough into a roll 16 inches long. Cut each roll into 16 pieces. Form into bolls and place 16 balls in each of two greased 8-inch square cake pans.

Brush liberally with melted butter or margarine.

Combine

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

and sprinkle buns with this mixture. Cover and let rise until a little more than doubled in bulk—about 1¼ hours. Bake in a moderate oven, 350°, 30 to 35 minutes.



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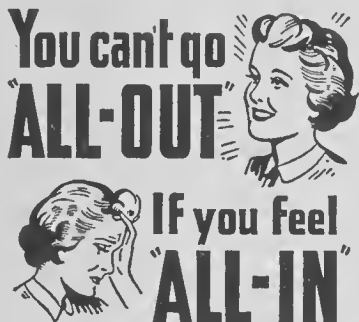
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The Clubwoman

(No. 4 in a series)

The Convention Delegate

AFTER several years of non-participation in provincial conferences, the club this year has decided to send a delegate—YOU. What are your duties and obligations? Does attending a convention require attendance at every session, or will there be a little free time for shopping in the city stores? What goes into a convention report? Suddenly, accepting the duties of delegate doesn't seem to have been such a good idea.

The delegate, theoretically, is a person assigned by her club to attend a certain gathering and bring home an account of its sessions. The conscientious delegate will attend enough meetings to gather the following details for her report:

1. Name of meeting place, honored guests and their correct titles.
2. Resolutions and new business discussed.
3. Theme and brief context of special speeches, plus crowd reaction.
4. Any new methods introduced for getting delegates acquainted, or to speak up, which could be applied in the home club.
5. Conference plans for next year.
6. Estimated value of the conference to the home club, and recommendations to make to headquarters re next year's program.

If anyone in the club has attended a large conference in the not-too-distant past, it might be satisfying to the delegate to have a chat with this person, to acquaint herself with the general formalities of convention-going.

Material regarding convention plans will be received by the club secretary, and when passed on to the delegate should be studied carefully. If there are to be special speakers, it would be worthwhile finding out just what they have done to merit this honor, and, incidentally, provide grist for the small talk which abounds at such affairs. Be prepared to meet and talk with strangers. So much more can be gained from a convention if the delegate strikes up conversations with fellow attenders, at coffee breaks, after a speech or important business meeting, or in the hallways. In this manner, the organization is knit closer, and some enduring friendships are formed.

There will be at least one guest speaker. How much goes into the delegate's report will depend on what the speaker has to say.

THE section in the report covering business sessions should be brief. The delegate may have been instructed to bring a resolution before the conference, in which case she carries with her the exact wording decided by the home club. She may have been forewarned about business to be discussed, and instructed by her

club to vote aye or nay according to their general wish. If there is to be an election of officers she will likely have been told for whom to vote.

Such actions may not sound democratic, but if each club representative comes to the meetings with a clear decision, more time will be available for discussion of new business, and the convention can be cleaned up sharply and efficiently. Big business

A Senior Citizen

by A. L. O'FARRELL

WE hear much about the problems of being a Senior Citizen nowadays and not nearly enough about the Senior Citizen who has refused to let problems develop.

Such a one is Grandma Irwin, who lives alone in a neat little apartment in Moose Jaw. The mother of 10 children, Annie Irwin was an early settler of the Griffin, Sask., district where she and her husband farmed for many years.

Today, in her 83rd year, she tranquilly looks forward, convinced that "the best is yet to be."

Whatever the years brought her, sickness or health, joy or sorrow, Annie Irwin kept her trust in God as real as when she lisped her Now-I-lay-me prayer at her mother's knee. It is this shining faith that enables her to live in quiet contentment with her memories of yesterday and her many interests of today.

When she first faced retirement after a busy life of farming and mothering and just being neighborly, she found that at last she had time to catch her breath and do some of the things she had always wanted to do. Having given herself to others for so many years, it was natural that she should still make people her chief concern. Her children and grandchildren, and her many friends hold first place in her heart. There is room too, for any in need in those countries less fortunate than Canada, and she reaches out to them in love and mercy to mitigate that need.

She loves knitting for her family and friends, but her thoughts of others stretch to far-away lands. In the past year she has sent 45 pairs of her hand-knitted mittens to Korea.

During these many years her cheery letters have travelled all over Canada and parts of the United States to reach her wide circle of friends. "I have a box in which I keep my souvenirs of memory," she says, "and in it are letters that have impressed me, written as far back as 60 years. I still have my Sunday School book of 76 years ago!"

follows such procedures, and women's meetings can often take a lesson from this leader.

There will almost certainly be entertainment—coffee parties, afternoon teas, dinners, conducted tours around the city, or special buses to outside points of interest.

If the delegate can attend most of the social functions, she will enjoy the experience, for they are often quite lavish. A woman representative from the country could look quite smart in a suit or Sunday-best dress. Long gowns are seldom required nowadays.

When assembling the final details for presentation to the home club, the delegate should read her report over and over again until the facts are fixed firmly in her mind, and then try to tell it without referring too often to notes. Those who stayed home usually feel that the delegate was very fortunate to have been selected for this all-expense-paid trip. A well-presented conference report will assure them it was club money wisely spent.—R.G.V

There is also a scrapbook of poems and songs of many, many years ago, which she has collected even in her busy days. But of all her interests, perhaps the most unique is her "Poem Book." She had always loved reading poetry, but it wasn't until she was 63 that Annie Irwin started her own rhyming.

After the Irwins left the farm, and she had more time to observe the changing scene around her, she found herself putting her thoughts into verse. Little "poems" about all manner of things would pop into her mind. They are all homey little verses that sound just like Grandma Irwin talking to her family, reminding them or inspiring them as she comments on "the happenings of the day."

*Life is like a mountain climb,—
Till we reach the top
Long and slow the time will go,
Yet we never stop.
When we reach the summit
Climbing days are past.
As we start the downward course
Months and years go fast—
Like a boy upon a hill
Seated on his sled
Gains momentum as he rushes
To the goal ahead.*

"If I didn't write them down as the inspirations came, I'd forget them," she told us. "Well, I just took to keeping a pad and pencil on my bedside table so I could jot them down as they came." And for nearly 20 years Grandma Irwin has been "jotting." She has written over four hundred poems, some of which have been published. All of them she has carefully typed herself and pasted into what she calls "My Poem Book."

She writes about the simple everyday things that crowd life, and her lines sing of her faith in God, her love of people. And so her poem book has grown with the years, as she continued her rhyming and pasting—a legacy for her family that will be treasured as the history and philosophy of Annie J. Irwin.

V

"You're afraid of your shadow
And scared of a mouse,
Wouldn't you feel safer
With a MAN—in the house?"

If feminine recipients of early valentines had received one containing this bold message, they would surely have called for the smelling salts. The sending of valentines used to be a kind of mock betrothal. One custom was to draw lots to decide which young men and women should be each other's "valentine" for the coming year. The couples could then exchange gifts, and sometimes even became engaged to be married. V

The Old-Time Valentine Party

by HENRY H. GRAHAM

WE went skating on the old farm pond or creek. What an event it was! Remember? Or haven't you lived that long?

The boys would spend tedious hours grooming their horses and shining up their cutters. Then, about 7 o'clock in the evening, they would proudly call for "her." The two turtle doves would snuggle down among the warm blankets and head for the pond. Earlier arrivals had probably removed whatever snow there was on the ice, built a big bonfire on the shore, and in its ruddy, flickering glare, couples were gliding smoothly over the glassy surface, arm in arm.

It was the boy's job, of course, to put on the girl's skates. Most regarded this not as a duty but a distinct privilege and pleasure. Then he would put on his own skates and the fun began. From time to time as the evening wore along they would leave the ice to toast their shins before the crackling blaze, which was never allowed to die down. It was needed for warmth on the bitterly cold nights, and it also furnished illumination.

ALL sorts of games were played. Among them were tag and crack-the-whip. Sometimes the best fancy skater in the group gave an impromptu exhibition, performing the well-known figure eight and going through other gyrations to the delight and admiration of the spectators.

Along about what modern youngsters would consider the shank of the

evening hot coffee and cocoa were prepared over glowing embers raked from the blazing fire, wieners were toasted on freshly cut willow sticks, and placed between piping hot buns. And to top off, hot mince pie was often served. Refreshments were always one of the bright spots of the event for everybody was ravenous after the exercise in the brisk air, and second helpings were the usual thing.

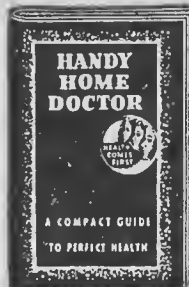
AFTER everyone was filled to capacity the party broke up with each couple returning to their own sleigh. What took place on the return trip was then known as spooning. The words "necking" and "petting" had not yet been born. Anyway, young people seemed to go for it in a big way, even as now. If a full moon cast its soft radiance over the snowscape so much the better. It was a night made for love and romance.

Many a couple who later celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary met for the first time and furthered their matrimonial ambitions at old-time skating parties. If you want to see an elderly chap's face light up ask him if he ever skated on the old farm pond. More than likely he did. And he will probably take you with him down memory's trail to his youth and the fun he had with "the sweetest girl in the world." That girl is now silver-haired but, to him, just as sweet as she appeared on their first Valentine date years ago. V

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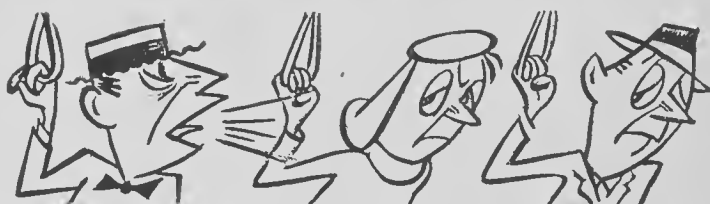
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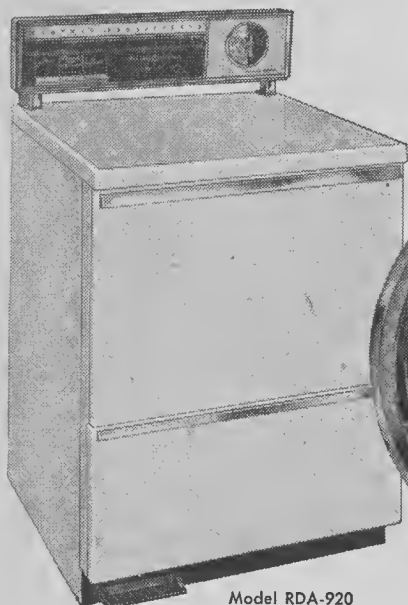


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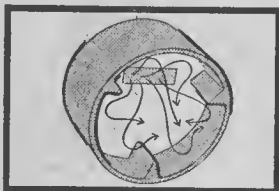
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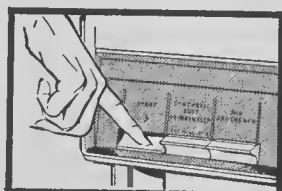
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The Countrywoman

A VISIT to Mrs. Leland Pound and to her home, Sunny Lane Farm at Ancaster, Ont., would arouse the interest of anyone in the part played by women in farm organizations. Mrs. Pound is a past chairman of the Women's Committee of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. She abounds in enthusiasm for the contribution women can make to improve the conditions in the life of a farmer and his family. Believing that the time has come for women to assume more responsibility and actual work in farm organizations, Mrs. Pound has done much to establish a grass-roots role for women in the Federation of Agriculture.

One of the scrapbooks in Mrs. Pound's collection, tells of the growth of the women's committee over the past 12 years. At the annual meeting a telegram arrived from a pioneer chairman, Mrs. C. A. Campbell. "This will make a good ending to my scrapbook," says Mrs. Pound. It had begun with an article by Mrs. Campbell called "Where Do We Go from Here?"

The leadership is now in the capable hands of Mrs. A. Hudson of Lyn, Ontario. Mrs. Hudson lives on a large dairy and poultry farm, where homemaking tasks are many, but she has found time to participate in a variety of community activities. A former school teacher, she has been particularly active in Women's Institutes and was a delegate to the A.C.W.W. in Copenhagen in 1950. One of her first loves is a class of lively, interesting beginners in Sunday School. Could this be because Mrs. Hudson has 11 grandchildren?

Local responsibilities are being side-stepped this year to give Mrs. Hudson the time she needs for her new responsibility as chairman of the OFA Women's Committee. Their program for 1958 is well established. There is to be continued support of folk schools, which are a Canadian adaptation of an adult education program started in Denmark by Bishop Grundtvig in 1844. They were introduced into Canada in the 30's to help inspire rural men and women to face the problems of the rural community and to learn to live more abundantly.

Because the OFA believes that in patronizing co-operatives, they are supporting a fundamental requirement of the world today, the women hope to give increased attention to study of the principles of co-operation.

A project to be initiated this year is a special column in the Rural Co-operator, "News and Views of the Women's Committee." In this way, Mrs. Hudson hopes to present information about Federation projects. The column should be an excellent source of study material for all farm women and agricultural conveners in any organization.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is an independent federation of farm organizations, without ties to government, labor or the consumer. It believes that the economic and social life of the farmer can be improved through unity of action. As Mrs. Hudson and her group in Ontario work for the fulfillment of this belief, so do women in farm organizations in other provinces. V

Pressing Aids

PRESS as you sew is one of the basic rules of dressmaking. Press each seam before it is crossed by another seam. Press each section of a garment before joining it to another section. This is essential if the finished garment is to have a professional look.

A press cloth is necessary to protect fabrics from the direct heat of an iron. Two are needed: one of heavy cotton twill for pressing woollens, and one of fine combed cotton fabric for pressing rayons and silks. Half a yard of 36-inch fabric makes a good size. It's important to keep your press cloth clean.

A sleeve roll can easily be made as a substitute for a sleeve board. To make a sleeve roll, take a magazine and roll it tightly into a two-inch roll. Fasten it with gummed paper. Then cover with cloth.

A tailor's ham (or cushion) should be used to press curved seams. It can be made with two oval pieces of unbleached cotton stuffed with wadding. To make a pattern for it, mark a 12-inch horizontal line on a smooth sheet of paper. Measure and mark 4½ inches from one end, and 3½ inches from the other end on the line. With a piece of string and pencil draw two circles with each point as a center. In other words, the diameters of the two circles will be 9 and 7 inches. Connect the circumference of these two

circles with a straight line, top and bottom, and you have your pattern for the oval.

Remove all sizing from the unbleached cotton by soaking in cold water for several hours. Iron. Pin paper pattern to double thickness. Cut out. Pin and stitch the two pieces together half inch from the edge, leaving one side open for about six inches. Turn to the right side.

It is now ready to stuff. Wool makes the best stuffing. Use either an old unraveled sweater or odds and ends of woolen fabrics cut into strips. Sawdust also makes a good stuffing, although it tends to be heavy. Cotton wadding or soft string may also be used. Stuff until the cushion is very firm. Turn the raw edges in at the opening and whip together. V

Sewing Hints

Cushion a creeping baby's knees with foam rubber. Stitch a pocket to the inside of baby's coveralls at the knee. Slip a thin square of foam rubber into the pocket; remove before laundering. V

Make "clown" pajamas that children won't outgrow too quickly. Cut the legs extra long, stitch on a casing one inch (or more) from the hemmed bottom edge, then run an elastic through casing to form a ruffle. V

Shirts and Skirts



No. 2239—If the unit method of construction is your favorite technique, then here is a style to select. Tabs on the skirt and shirt give a smart fashion accent. Sizes 10-17. Using 35-inch material and a size 14, the blouse takes $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards, and the skirt $3\frac{5}{8}$ yards. Price 35 cents.

No. 2269—It's a cover-up brief jacket to add a new sparkle to last season's party dress. Size 12 will require 2 yards of 35-inch material. Sizes 12-20. Price 50 cents.

No. 4813—Something borrowed from the boys in the style of these smart tabbed shirts. A size 16, long sleeved shirt will need $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards of 35-inch material. Sizes 12-20. Price 35 cents.



No. 2194—A blouse styled to add that feminine touch to your outfit. Beautifully made from printed tie silk! The long sleeved style, size 20 requires 2 yards of 44-inch material. Sizes 12-20, 40 and 42. Price 35 cents.

No. 2274—The new middy look has influenced this jerkin style which tops two favorite skirts. The skirt and jerkin in even plaid or plain fabric requires 2 yards of 54-inch material for a size 12. Available in sizes 11-15 and 12-18. Price 50 cents.

No. 1908—For an easy piece of sewing try this one-piece wrap skirt. Waist sizes $24\frac{1}{2}$, 25, $25\frac{1}{2}$, 26, 27, 28, 30. Make it in felt with $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards. Price 35 cents.



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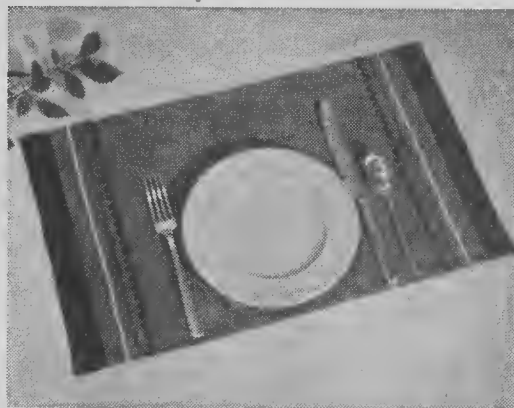
Easy Does It

Items that are easy to make and handy to have around for that extra shower gift, or the forthcoming bazaar

by ANNA LOREE

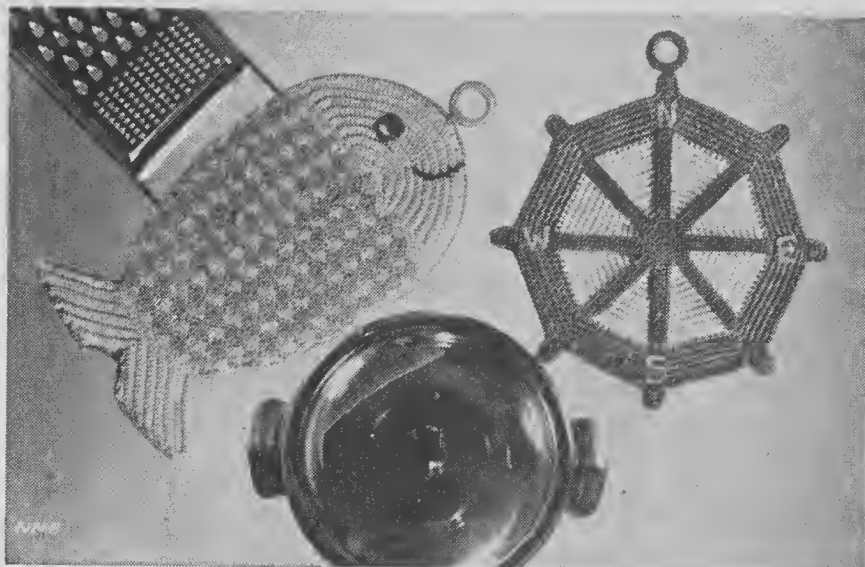
Place Mats to Please

No. 1077



Here is a design for a bright peasant border place mat, and it is easy to sew. Place mats are so practical for the busy housewife, because they can be easily laundered. Try making a smart matching set by putting the same design on an apron for yourself and on café-style curtains for your kitchen. A four place set with serviettes requires 1½ yards of 35-inch fabric. Price 10 cents.

Handy for the Kitchen



No. CS-363

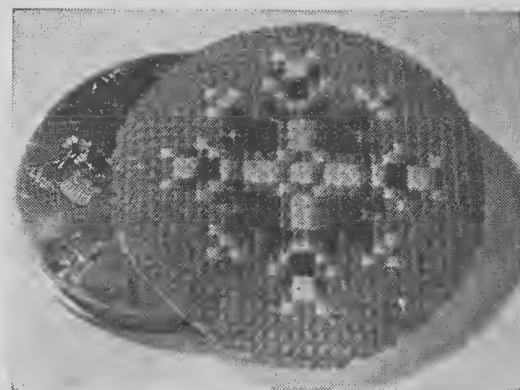
Crocheted potholders are easy to make and are always welcome additions to any kitchen. To be useful, potholders should be large enough to protect the entire hand when lifting hot dishes. Also they should be thick enough to prevent burning of fingers, without being so thick that they are

difficult to handle. If your potholder consists of one piece, it would be a good idea to apply a lining. Cut the lining ½-inch larger than the potholder. Then turn this back as the seam allowance and sew the lining neatly in place on the wrong side. The pattern includes instructions for two designs. Price 10 cents.

Simple Cross Stitch

No. E-6415

Would you like to learn to do a type of needlepoint? Then here is just the thing—a design worked throughout in cross stitch. The instructions are for a compact case. The same design could be used for hot dish mats or has-sock covers. Price 10 cents.



Address orders to The Country Guide Needlework Department, 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 12, Man.

The Country Boy and Girl

THIS month we have a coloring picture for you, boys and girls, and hope that you enjoy painting or crayoning it. Your story is by a lady who says it was her daughter's favorite bedtime tale for several years, and we have a crossword puzzle this month to test your wits — don't peek at the answers across the page!

In March we would like to print some poetry—poems written by you, the country boys and girls. Several prizes of recently published books for ehildren will be given as awards for the best poems sent in. Be sure to enclose your name, address and age. The poetry contest is open to boys and girls 12 years and under.—THE EDITORS. V

Johnny — Jump Up

by DOROTHY M. POWELL

EVERY boy or girl has a toy they like better than any other. Johnny liked a magnifying glass best. His Uncle Jim who was a detective had given it to him one birthday. Johnny never stopped being surprised at all the wonderful things he could see when he used it.

For example, he had never known how much fun it was to watch the ants. He had spent hours watching them scurry in and out of their home in the old apple tree. Once, he had even helped a little ant carrying a bundle far bigger than herself. It was so big, she was unable to get it into the tree. So Johnny had carefully moved a twig which was in the way. He was almost sure she waved a small black feeler before she disappeared.

So, you can understand why this was his favorite toy. Tonight, before he went to bed, Johnny laid it carefully away in its special place. And then had fallen right to sleep. But, it seemed no time at all before he heard a voice saying in his ear, "Johnny! Johnny! Jump up! Hurry, Johnny! Jump up!"

Johnny switched on the lamp beside his bed. And what do you suppose he saw! A funny little man with a thistle-down coat and a red pointed hat with a green feather in it. He was sitting on the railing at the foot of Johnny's bed. When the boy's eyes opened wide at the sight of him, he grinned a broad, broad grin.

"Hullo," he said. "We need your help, Johnny. Bring your magnifying

glass along. We think you can detect the trouble."

"Who are you?" Johnny stuttered. "Where did you come from?"

"Now, now! Don't get excited," the little man said. "I'll answer all your questions in good time. Just hurry and come with me." With those words he jumped from the railing, starting out of the room without a backward glance.

So, Johnny flipped back the covers and padded after him. The little man was standing in front of the fireplace when Johnny rushed into the living room.

"See that picture?" he asked, pointing to the one over the mantel. It was a painting of a winding road with great snowdrifts on either side. There was a tiny red-roofed house almost buried in snow and two bare, black trees.

"Yes," said Johnny. "That's my favorite picture."

"Well, that's where we're going," said the little man, and he leaped from the floor to the mantel. "Come on, now. Up you come."

"B-but, I can't," stammered Johnny. "I'm too big. I might break something."

The little fellow grinned. "Jump up anyway and see what happens." So Johnny jumped, and found himself sailing easily up and up. Imagine his surprise when he found he was exactly the same size as the little man. His head barely reached the frame of the picture.

They stepped onto the frame and right away they were standing knee deep in snow with the road stretching far ahead.



ADD THE COLOR: Bcth and Jane decided the best Valentine gift they could give their mother ou February 14 was to do all the supper dishes for her. Here they are preparing for the tasks. Have fun coloring their clothes and kitchen.

"I can't walk around with just my pajamas on," protested Johnny.

His little friend pointed a finger. "I don't think you'll be cold," he said. "Take a look at yourself."

Johnny looked down and was amazed to see he had a coat of thistle-down and high red boots. He put his hand to his head wondering if he had a hat. Sure enough! A small pointed one.

They trudged along through deep snow, past the tiny house and on and on. It was very cold and Johnny's breath blew out in clouds of white mist.

Suddenly, the little man began to talk. "Johnny, we in Fairyland have watched your kindness to the wild things — animals, birds and insects; how you've used your magnifying glass to help them.

"Tonight, there was a great ball in the Ice King's palace. Everyone in Fairyland was invited. In the ball-room there are lovely hanging lights made with dozens of icicles." His face grew sad as he spoke.

"Somehow, one of the largest icicles broke off and crashed to the floor. It hit one of the Snowflake fairies and she is badly hurt."

"But, how can I help?" Johnny asked.

The little man's face was serious. "This has never happened before. We are afraid there might be an evil fairy amongst us. Maybe you can detect how it happened."

Finally, they saw the Ice Palace; a beautiful castle of turrets, towers and tiny narrow windows. The whole thing shone and sparkled in the moonlight.

Inside, Johnny gazed spellbound at the queer assortment of tiny people. Fairies with shimmering wings, ants and big, fat beetles, squirrels and robins and bluebirds. And all dressed in the strangest clothes.

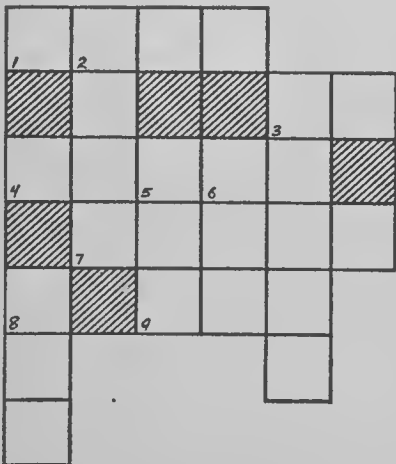
A crowd was gathered around the little Snowflake fairy who was lying upon the glassy floor. Someone whispered, "Johnny's here!" and the whisper went around the circle. They all turned toward Johnny, their faces brightening.

Suddenly, a fat robin wearing a frilly cap chirruped, "He'll help you. I know he will." And Johnny recognized the mother robin whose nest was outside his bedroom window.

"Don't you think the Snowflake lady should be in bed?" Johnny suggested.

"Why, yes. Of course! Of course!" the little people chorused. And in a

Midget Crossword



Across

- Western province (abbr.)
- He is, I.....
- Autumn flower
- Runs on tracks
- Belongs to it

Down

- Cannot be found
- Stand up!
- Three
- Swallow food
- To attempt

(Answers in opposite corner)

Crossword Answers

Across

- Alta.
- Am
- Aster
- Train
- Its

Down

- Lost
- Arise
- Tri
- Eat
- Try



TEAMWORK

.....PLUS!

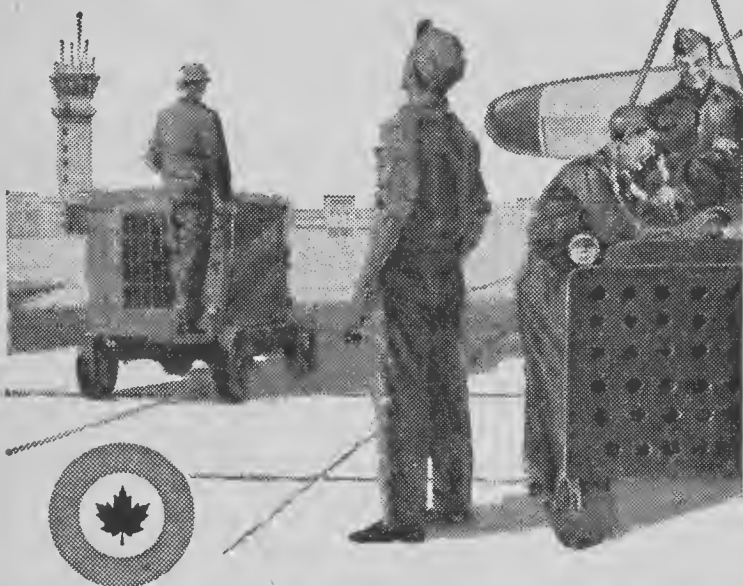
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few seconds they carried the injured fairy away, leaving Johnny and his friend alone in the great hall.

The little man sighed and said, "Well, let's get started. You take one end and I'll take the other."

They looked and looked. Johnny searched in every corner, crawling around on his hands and knees with his magnifying glass always ready.

Standing up, he looked at the huge hanging lamp from which the icicle had fallen. "You know, I think I'll take a look up there," he said. So, with a hop and a jump he sailed lightly up to the icy rafters.

He found the place where the icicle had broken and looked at it carefully through the glass.

"Hey, down there!" he shouted. "There's something funny here, all right. Looks as if it was melted off."

At that moment he heard a sobbing sound nearby. Turning, he spied something at the far end of the beam. When he came closer he saw it was nothing but a small firefly, sobbing as if her heart would break and covering her face with her wings. "I didn't mean to do it. Really, I didn't. It was just an accident. I wouldn't hurt a thing," she cried.

"Did you knock the icicle down, Miss Firefly?" Johnny asked.

"Yes, I d-d-did," she sobbed. "But, not on purpose. I just got too near the lamp and it fell down. I'm so s-s-sorry," she wailed.

"Well, crying won't help," Johnny

said. "Here, blow your nose," he handed her a hanky.

"Will they be very angry with me, do you think?"

The little man had been listening and he shook his head. "They won't be angry when we explain," he said.

He beckoned to Johnny. "Put her in your pocket, Johnny. We had better be on our way. It will soon be morning."

At that moment a fat beetle hurried importantly into the room and announced that the Ice King's sleigh was waiting for him.

Johnny wondered how the King knew he was ready to leave. Oh, well. Strange things always happen in Fairyland.

He followed the beetle's fat back down the icy corridor to the door. There stood a white sleigh drawn by two white reindeer. Johnny climbed in and the beetle covered him cozily with a fluffy, white blanket. It was made from thousands of snowflakes sewn together.

The beetle clacked his feet together and the reindeer began to run swiftly along the road.

Johnny waved good-bye to the little man, and settled down, warm and sleepy, under the snowflake blanket. His eyes felt heavy and he let them close for a minute. When he opened them he was in his own bed, under a patchwork blanket that looked something like clusters of snowflakes.

Funny! He didn't remember getting into bed again.

Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 71 in series—by CLARENCE TILLENIUS



WINTER chores on the farm offer unending opportunity for action sketches of every sort. Hauling hay, feeding cattle, chopping wood, piling logs—each work requires a characteristic series of motions. The key to successful sketches of any sort of activity which is repeated regularly is to observe carefully first of all the sequence of actions.

In log-piling, as shown, the first motion is the stoop to pick up the log, the straightening of back to lift it, then the heave and swing which deposit it on the next one. These four motions will be repeated again and again until all the logs are piled. Remember, too, that *two* men are doing this together. Think of them both as being fastened to the same log and

your sketch will have a better chance of looking as though they are actually working together.

And do not try to draw all four motions at once. You cannot do it that way. Choose one motion—let us say the stoop—and study that each time it occurs. After half a dozen times you may have the action well enough memorized to make your sketch. Then go on to the next one and study that. By the time the logs are piled you may have all your sketches done—and, perhaps, have received a pointed invitation, to lend a hand piling the next load.

(Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors complete series available in book form from The Country Guide, Winnipeg. Price postpaid \$1.00).

Young People

On the farm and at home

Supervises Pioneer Venture

No. 7—Careers in Agriculture

DOWN at Hays—about halfway between Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, with a jog north—farm families have made a shrewd trade with the Canadian Government—a piece of dried-out, blown-out farm land for freshly broken, leveled and disked land at Hays, Alta. It probably rains less at Hays, but along with the plowing and disking on his new Hays farm the incoming farmer finds that someone has put in irrigation head-gates.

He has become an irrigation farmer. Quite a change! A lot of questions to ask?—a lot of answers to be found.

And the man who helps find the answers is—like most of the settlers—a native of the dryland country. But



—Cattlemen photo
Bill Herringer, PFRA adviser, Hays, Alta., talks to VLA farmer Mac Locke.

he has been taught—and has learned—how to handle the soil upon which water will run, how to move the water on and off, and how to grow and harvest the crop that water brings. Moreover, he also knows a thing or two about selling Ladak and Vernal alfalfa seed, Lasalle clover seed—even tomatoes.

Bill Herringer, born in Maple Creek, son of the Saskatchewan Wool Growers' Association secretary, Air Force veteran, Agricultural graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, agrologist. This is the man the PFRA has chosen to help new settlers in their pioneering venture.

ON the 27,000 acres in the Hays Project, 158 families have been settled since 1952. Some of the land is still to be taken up and some is farmed directly by the PFRA. Herringer supervises the actual farming of 4,000 to 6,000 acres of land—in pasture, summerfallow and crops. He also acts as adviser to the men who farm an additional 20,000 acres.

Givers of advice aren't always appreciated. In one of his recent "letters" (mimeographed sheets which Bill sends regularly to Hays farmers) he bluntly stated, "Buy ewes and lambs this fall, instead of a new car." Some of their wives would rather see the house completed instead of a new manure spreader or hammer mill.

Thirty-three-year-old Bill Herringer knows what he is talking about. As a youngster he travelled with his dad across southern Saskatchewan ranches; both he and his brother worked on ranches and a sister married a rancher. After graduating he worked for a year with the Conservation and Development Branch of the Saskatchewan Government managing a small irrigation project near Govenlock, down in Saskatchewan's southwest corner. Then he joined PFRA, spent a year at Lethbridge, then was transferred to Vauxhall, and finally came to Hays in 1952.

At college he took a general course which he thinks is a type of program best suited to his work. "I'm glad I didn't specialize," he says. "In this job I deal a lot with people and have to talk their problems with them. This is no place for an ivory-towered man"—he meant scientific specialist—"I do considerable actual farming, a great deal of extension work, get mixed up with marketing; in fact, I handle all kinds of problems every day."

HE figures there's unlimited opportunity in his kind of work. And certainly there is, for many of the settlers arrived flat broke and suffering from the sting of failure. Starting from scratch, they have had to build houses, acquire livestock and machinery, put up barns and corrals, and learn a way of farming about which they knew very little.

Herringer says his greatest satisfaction comes from seeing these people go ahead. There are headaches, too, of course. Some settlers were failures as dryland farmers and have found that their new way of life hasn't made them any richer. They were hailed out the first two years, and the much-talked-of cost-price squeeze has been particularly hard for these people to bear: they moved in just at the top of the agricultural boom, and times have got tougher for them ever since. Despite all these hazards and troubles, many of the early settlers are now on their feet. The successful ones have grown specialty crops and have acquired cattle or sheep—the type of farming conservation-minded Herringer has been trying to sell to erstwhile straight grain farmers.—F.M.J. V

Club Etiquette

AT a leadership course, held in Alberta, it was suggested that 4-H Club members: inform a guest speaker of the time, place, date and topic on which they wished him to speak; meet and introduce the speaker to others before the meeting begins; listen attentively to the guest speaker and send a note of thanks to him later.

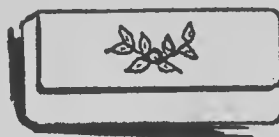
Members should show respect for the leader and express thanks to him at the end of the year. They should also acknowledge assistance of all those who worked throughout the year to help their club. V

Project in Felt

by E. MORGAN

WHEN the girls' club agreed to make felt crests for the school, they discovered a lucrative business for their club. Felt hats of every color, shape and size could be made into a great variety of articles for sale such as cushion tops, tablecovers, hassock covers, window-seat covers, slippers, mitts, purses, matching bags and hats, pictures, drape decorations, lapel flowers, toys and dolls. Even tiny pieces of felt were used to make the letters for names to sew on jackets and cushions.

All the trimmings and bands were removed from the hats. The hat was dipped in lukewarm water so that it could be pulled gently, then steam pressed to flatten it. In some cases, as



in making flowers and small animals, the rounded shape of the felt was utilized. In making large articles such as table covers or seat covers, small sections of felt were first put together in order to avoid bulk in handling.

Most popular sale item was cushion tops, probably because felt is both smart and sturdy. Club members made their own patchwork designs, using geometric forms, circles and sections of circles. They found that the best way to fasten pieces together was to first cut out a paper pattern of the desired shape, then cut the felt pieces from the pattern. The felt pieces were pinned on a fairly heavy piece of wrapping paper, edges just meeting.

If a new style machine is available, the pieces can be joined with a zig-zagger. On an older machine, use a hemstitching attachment with the puncher turned to one side. The paper backing is torn away after sewing. The felt pieces could be whipped over and over by hand very well. Gloves, mitts and slippers all look best when done by hand and decorated with wool embroidery.

Shopping bags and purses were also big sellers. Envelope purses in plain colors or a combination of colors were most popular. A pattern, the desired shape and size, was cut from cotton material. Then a good quality lining, the same shape, was cut. Before joining the pieces together, the zipper was sewn in place. The fastener outside was covered with a small jewel ornament or a sparkling button. Draw string bags, made in three colors, were attractive too. A piece of heavy cardboard should be placed between the lining and cotton as a stiffener for the bottom of these bags.

Attractive pictures were made by using one large flat piece of felt for background, and a design cut out and pasted on with plastic cement.

There's a worthwhile club project in a collection of old felt hats. V

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VOL. LXXVII WINNIPEG, JANUARY 1958 No. 1

Proposed Legislation

THE long awaited Government bill to provide for the stabilization of the prices of agricultural commodities was introduced in the House of Commons in mid-December, and reached the stage of second reading in amendment form before the Christmas recess. The details of the amended bill, and the Agriculture Minister's explanation of it, are contained elsewhere in this issue. Essentially, the bill provides for the implementation of a new kind of flexible price support system under which any agricultural product, except wheat, oats and barley grown in the area under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board, will be eligible for support.

In view of the net farm income situation, the grain surplus problem, and the cost-price squeeze in which farmers find themselves, it is little wonder that they and their organizations attach so much significance to this proposed piece of legislation. That agriculture is in a depressed condition, and has been for some time in relation to most of the rest of the Canadian economy, cannot be denied. Farm people, and apparently politicians, think that more can be done, through price supports, to assure farmers fair and adequate returns for their produce, than has yet been done in this country. With this contention we wholeheartedly concur.

The bill has met with criticism, both in and out of the House of Commons. In the House debates, the C.C.F. and the Social Credit Party spokesmen have criticized the new legislation on the ground that it does not guarantee prices to farmers at 100 per cent of parity. The Liberal participants have maintained that it does not provide for anything to be done, that could not have been done under the former government's Agricultural Prices Support Act. In fact, they claim it will not be as good a measure, because it will not be as flexible.

Outside the Commons the leaders of the provincial farm unions are extremely critical of the bill, because it does not include their long advocated principle of guaranteeing 100 per cent of parity to the farmer. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which has a highly developed price support policy, is dissatisfied with the type of formula which has been included in the bill. The CFA believes it will not be a satisfactory guide to price supports, because it is not based on the relationship between farm prices and costs of goods and services used by farmers.

WHETHER the bill will be enacted as it stands, enacted in amended form or not at all, is yet to be determined. Whatever the outcome, there are certain points about price supports which we believe should be borne in mind.

Price supports should not create incentives to production which perpetuate surplus problems and prevent necessary and desirable adjustments being made in agriculture. In the United States, where they have had a rigid price support program based on parity, some \$22 billion have been spent in the last quarter century on programs to help the American farmer. About half of this amount was spent to stabilize farm prices and income. Another \$22 billion was spent on other programs, such as purchases of farm products for foreign use, but not specifically designed for agricultural aid, but of direct or indirect benefit to the U.S. farmer. Yet, in spite of these vast outlays of public funds, farm income in the United States is declining. It has declined about 30 per cent from 1951 through 1956. The basic difficulty is that the policies adopted have perpetuated an unreal price structure that has encouraged overproduction of farm products and has kept too many people in farming, resulting in ever-growing surpluses of

food and fibers; surpluses that inevitably weigh down the very price structure public policy has been trying to raise. The United States Secretary of Agriculture has decided to ask Congress for authority to fix support levels in a range between 60 and 90 per cent of parity. The American Farm Bureau, which represents about 1,600,000 farmers, is reported to favor a system which would set the support price at 90 per cent of the preceding 3-year average market price for each type of crop. Surely there are lessons for Canadians to learn from the situation across the border.

A rigid system of price supports can at best only provide supports for a limited number of commodities, and inevitably leads to the application of some form of production controls. This statement is based on the experience of those countries which have tried such a system. Mr. Benson indicates that in the United States they support only 13 commodities plus dairy products and wool, out of a total of 250 farm commodities produced. He adds that about 80 per cent of the price support dollars has been paid for only four commodities, and that that money has gone to only 25 per cent of the farmers. Under the combined impact of acreage allotments in the price support program and withdrawals of land under the Soil Bank, acreage of the major basic crops (corn, wheat and cotton) dropped substantially between 1953 and 1957. However, between the same two years, output of corn is actually up and the drop in output of wheat and cotton is much less than the drop in acreage. In addition, farmers have expanded production of other crops, because under the acreage allotment program they are free to plant whatever else they wish. Eventually under such a system, all of agriculture would be under acreage allotment and marketing quotas, and the farmer would lose the ability to make his own decisions. We doubt very much whether the majority of Canadian farmers are prepared to enter into such a system and become wards of the government.

Finally, it is completely unrealistic to think of any price support program as one which can cure all the ills of Canadian agriculture. There were, for example, 120,937 (21 per cent of the total) farms in Canada in 1956, each of which produced crops and livestock worth less than \$1,200. No matter how high price supports are set, they cannot raise the income level for these farms to satisfactory levels. It will take other types of assistance programs, working over a period of years, to bring about any substantial degree of economic relief for people on such farms.

The experience in the United States should warn us that this whole question of price supports is a most difficult one, and an effective and equitable plan will only be reached after years of trial and error. We do not believe the Agricultural Prices Support Act provides the best plan. We do believe the proposed bill is an improvement. It would establish the principle of guaranteeing yearly prices on any agricultural commodity to be set in advance for a 12-month period. It would provide a mandatory floor at all times on nine key agricultural commodities. It would establish an advisory committee, composed and representative of farmers, for the specific purpose of advising as to which commodities should be under support and the level of the guaranteed yearly prices to be provided for them. It remains to be seen whether the proposed moving average formula, which is to serve as a basis for setting support prices, is a satisfactory one or not.

Can Any More Be Done?

IT has been repeatedly stated that the large stocks of grain on hand in this country represent the biggest single problem facing Canadian agriculture today. That this is so is underlined in the following quotation from Dr. E. C. Hope's outlook article for 1958, which is featured in this issue.

In Canada, in particular, it is doubtful if agricultural production can be brought into balance with effective demand as long as we have such large stocks of wheat coupled with the inability of the western grain producer to sell what he pro-

duces. This single factor probably is the key to our current farm problem. In the final analysis, excessive grain supplies are responsible for much of our excessive volume of hogs, eggs, fowl, turkeys, beef and milk.

This statement, and we believe it to be factual, leads us to the inevitable question: Is everything being done that can be done to seek both immediate relief and a long-term solution to the problem? In raising the question we are not trying to be facetious. Far from it. The complexity and gravity of the situation warrants the continuous and sober consideration of the best minds in the country.

The Canadian Government, which is primarily responsible for marketing Canada's wheat surplus, has assured farmers that the Wheat Board should be able to sell some 40 million bushels more in the current crop year than was possible in 1956-57. Even if their optimism is well founded, and the level of exports can be maintained at around the 300 million bushel mark in the future, it will take several years before the stocks are appreciably reduced. During this period, is agriculture in general, and grain farming in particular, to remain in a depressed condition? Or are there some avenues of approach to the problem that have not been fully explored?

For our part we believe that there are. We would therefore like to see the Government call a working party together for as long a period of time as is necessary to adequately review and analyze the situation. The party might contain farm leaders and experts, agricultural economists, marketing specialists and representatives of the grain trade. The sole objective of the party would be to carefully and dispassionately analyze what is being done about our grain surplus, to consider all worthwhile proposals, which have been brought forward, and to prepare recommendations for the immediate consideration and use of the Government.

We believe that the combined efforts of such a working party could provide some new ideas and approaches to the problem, and should, at the very least, provide a satisfactory answer to the question: Can Any More Be Done?

Give Them a Chance

AS pointed out in a feature article in this issue, compulsory marketing boards in Ontario are on trial for their very existence.

We are in sympathy with the desire of many producers to strengthen their bargaining power in the market, and to achieve through combined effort, if possible, a farm price that is in fair relationship to the highest retail price which consumers are able and willing to pay for their products. In the case of some commodities, there is evidence that this is not always so, and that the farmer is the victim of some sharp, if not illegal, trade practices.

There is, of course, much more involved than simply strengthening producer bargaining power. To stand a chance of succeeding, the boards must first obtain the support of a clear majority of the producers involved. They must assure, insofar as possible, an adequate supply of a quality product. They must hire people who understand the function and operation of the market. And perhaps above all, they must be fair in their dealings, and maintain the confidence of the purchasers.

To those who object to the compulsory feature we would remind them that all of us in our social-security-minded society have been compelled to sacrifice some freedom. Taxes taken for family allowances and old age pensions are cases in point. In other words, the minority who are willing to take the chance of being able to look after their own interests, often have to conform to the law for the good of the majority.

Whether compulsory boards for a wide range of individual farm commodities can sufficiently increase the efficiency in marketing such products, to more than offset the costs of their operation, remains to be proven. However, they have the right to try, under existing legislation, if supported by the required majority of producers. We think the boards should be given sufficient time to prove their possible value, before they are defeated in a vote.